

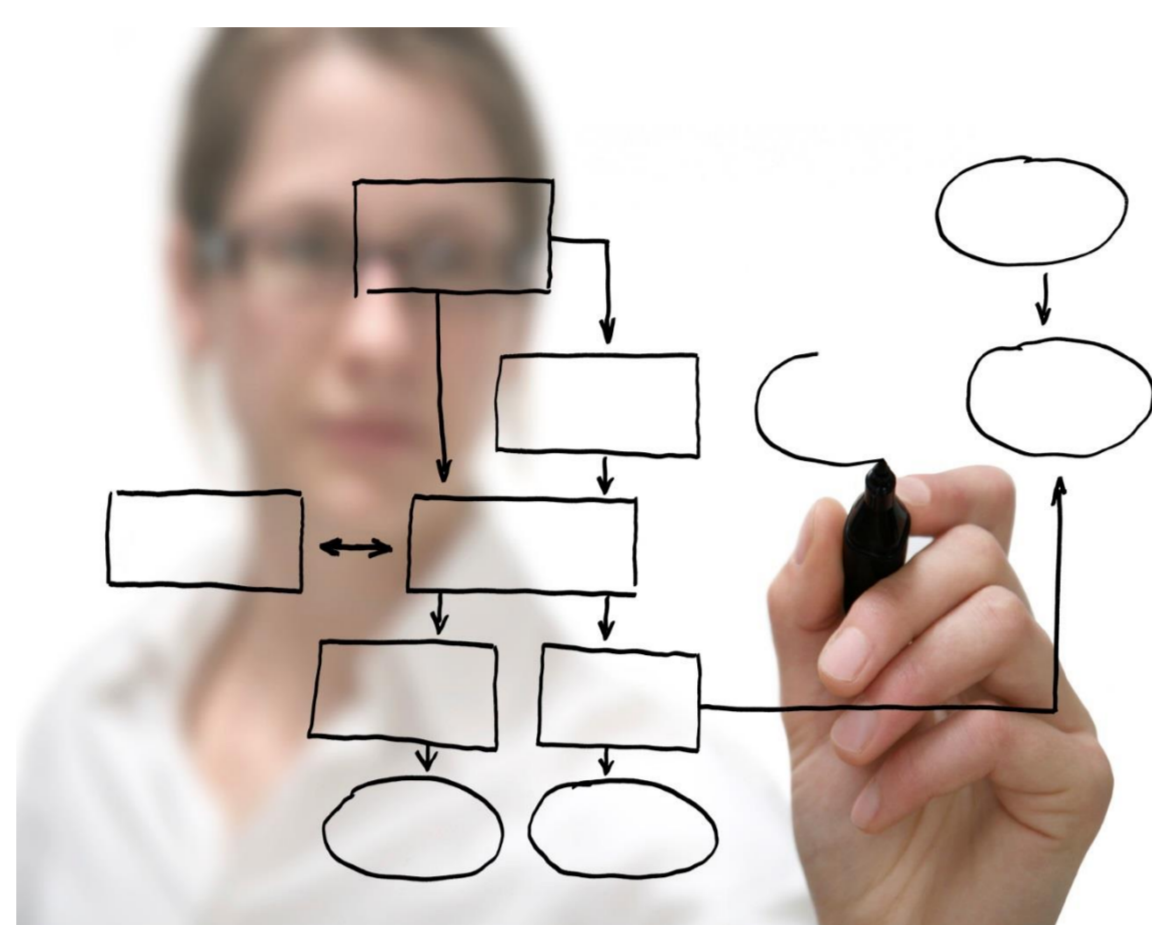
Gathering PACE in Fife

We know that drift and delay in decision making for looked after children leads to poorer outcomes. Ensuring that timely decision making, supported by excellent practice, becomes standard practice in Fife, we will use Quality Improvement approach to achieve better, sustainable and consistent outcomes for children. As the 3rd largest local authority in Scotland, the decision was taken to focus on a designated area of Fife (Cowdenbeath).

AIM 1: By December 2017, 90% of children who become looked after and accommodated will have a decision for permanence within 10.5 months.

Method

We used a variety of QI tools, including process mapping and driver diagrams, to gain a better understanding of our systems, supporting us to identify potential areas for improvement and generate change ideas.

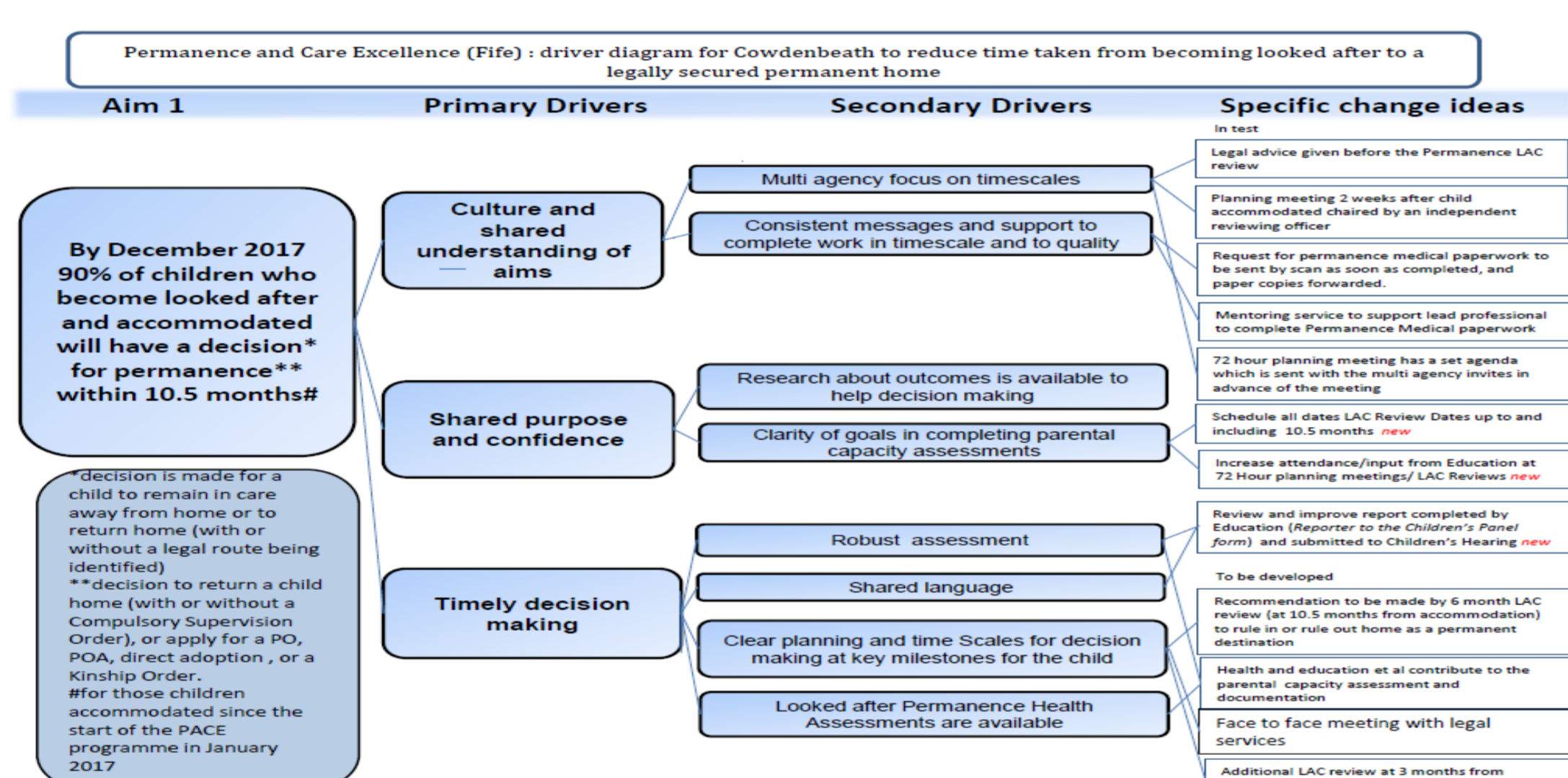


Process Change

Theory: Early planning will reduce drift and delay

Implemented 3 core changes:

- 72 hour multi-agency planning meeting
- Diarise key dates
- 2 week LAC Review.



Achievements

- Improvement gains demonstrated in Cowdenbeath
- Permanence explicitly considered at earliest planning forum
- Learning from what has worked in Cowdenbeath is being spread to other areas
- Improved recording of the journey of the child and greater communication between service managers and data support
- 4 members of the PACE Improvement Team have completed the Improvement Science Practicum, growing Fife's QI knowledge, capacity and capability
- Ministerial Visit and the opportunity to share our learning and showcase our achievements
- In partnership with Health we are influencing strategy to support increased capacity of Community Pediatricians to provide more timely health assessments.

Key Reference Materials

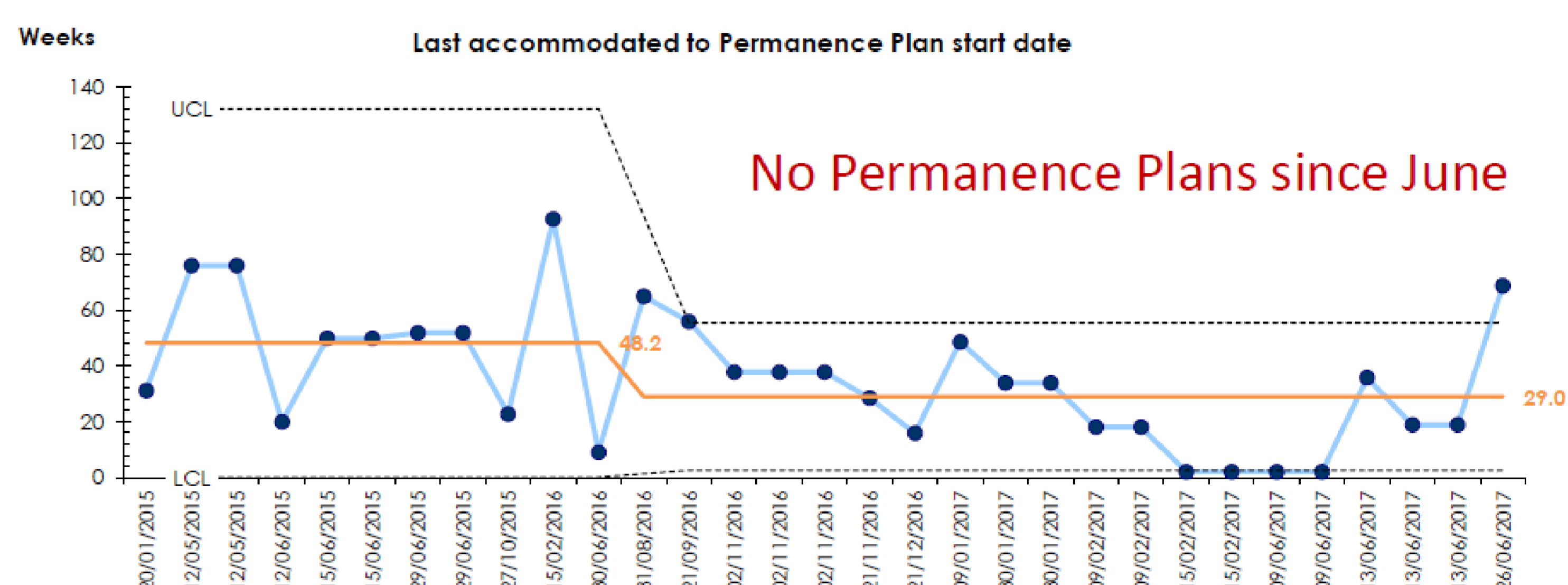
The Improvement Guide, Langley et al, 2009.

Next steps

- To reduce the time taken of children who have a decision for permanence away from home to be presented to the ADM within 35 weeks
- Replicate and scale up improvement to 4 new areas
- Continue to improve data systems so information is relevant, accurate and accessible
- Listen to the voices of children and young people, involving them in the improvement process.

Results

Cowdenbeath has reduced the time it takes to make recommendation for permanence for it's looked after and accommodated children from an average of 48.2 weeks to 29 weeks.



Conclusions

- We have shifted to an equal emphasis on long term security as well as immediate safety
- Considerable reduction in time taken to make permanence recommendation
- PACE process strengthened collaboration.

Key Learning Points

- Size matters: Aim big- start small
- The PACE brand has freed innovation and given cultural permission to test new approaches
- Small rapid PDSA test cycles are considered low risk providing rich learning and knowledge of what works
- As practitioner understanding of PACE and relationships have grown, investment and commitment has increased.