



By 1st November 2018, 75% of looked after and accommodated children (under 12) will have a decision for permanence* within 7.5 months from accommodation

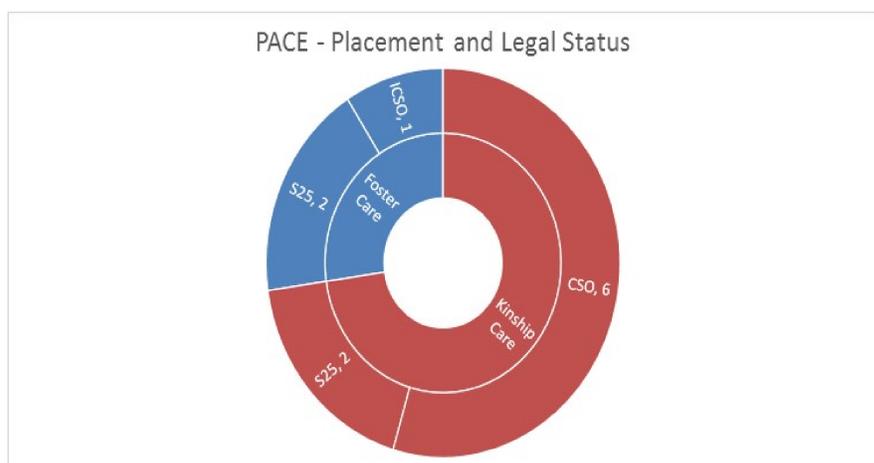


Every looked after child in Scotland must have a review 6 weeks after becoming accommodated. We felt this was too long to wait for a child's plan to be in place and so we tested a new two week review for all looked after and accommodated children from 1st November 2017

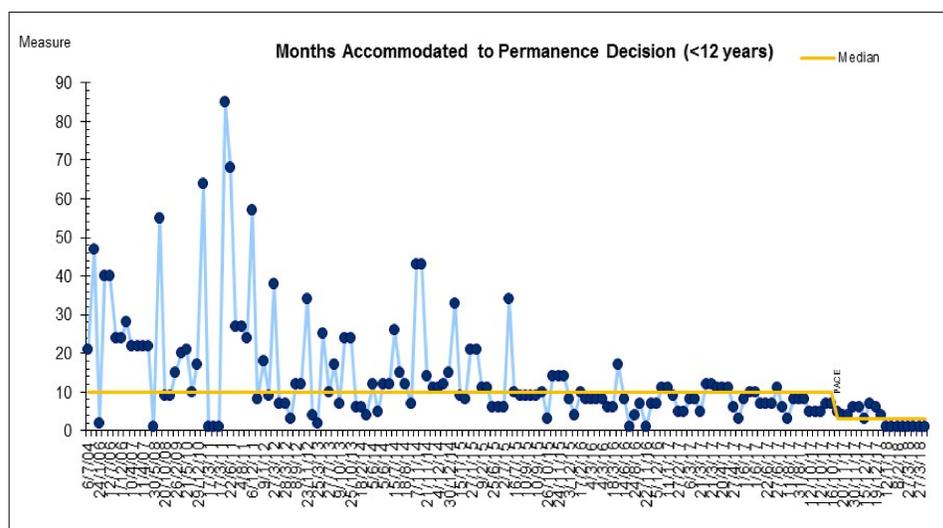
Our hypotheses being that earlier multi-agency planning meeting with the family, would provide a clear focus for everyone involved, encourage more engagement with the assessment being undertaken and enable early decision making for each child.

Method

Since 1 November 2017, 32 children (25 families) have entered PACE.



Results



Achievements

So far, 21 children have had a permanence decision made. 1 was out-with 7½ months, which means that 95% of children have had a permanence decision made within 7½ months. There are 4 children in PACE who have not yet had a permanence decision made within 7½ months taking us to 80% and exceeding our stretch aim.

As a result of our achievements we have been nominated for a national QI award for PACE.

We have been working on improving permanence planning since 2015 and PACE has enabled us to maintain a focus on this area of work.

New Tests of change

- Earlier medical consultation with parents and monitoring of health outcomes.
- New Parenting Capacity Assessment format.

Our key learning

points?

- The ability to monitor and capture timescales for all PACE children.
- The importance of data.
- A passionate and committed PACE team with a focus on outcomes.
- Curiosity and a willingness to test new ideas in practice.

MIDLOTHIAN PACE NEWSLETTER April 2018

The Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE) programme aims to improve permanence outcomes for children, by addressing the issues that cause drift and delay in their care journey. We know that delays in decision-making can be detrimental to a child's development and in partnership with CELCIS and the Scottish Government, we have developed an innovative, whole system approach to improving permanence planning in Midlothian.

Our vision for 'permanence' is that every looked after child in Midlothian will be provided with a settled, secure and permanent place to live, quickly and with minimum disruption to their young lives.

4 routes to permanence

There are 4 ways a child can achieve 'permanence' and be secure.

- Remaining or returning home (which is our first priority)
- Moving to live with a family member (called kinship care)
- A Permanence Order (which means the local authority will take responsibility for the child or young person and where they live)
- Adoption (which means supporting a child to live with a new family).

Next steps

- To continue to monitor timescales for all looked after children
- To refocus on the 4 aims that follow a child's journey
- To explore causes of delay and drift from ADM decision to final order.
- To test the new medical process and parenting assessment format.