

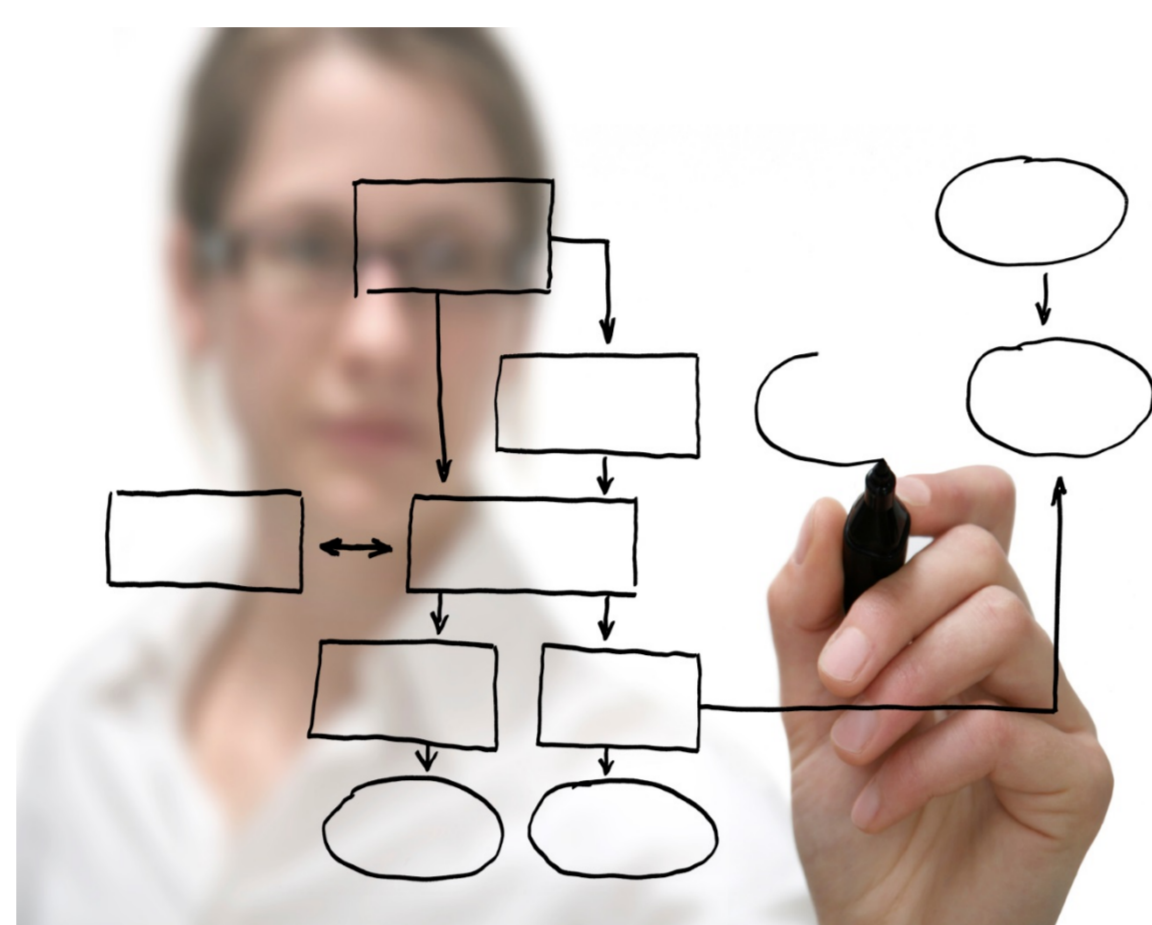
# Gathering PACE in Fife 2018

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

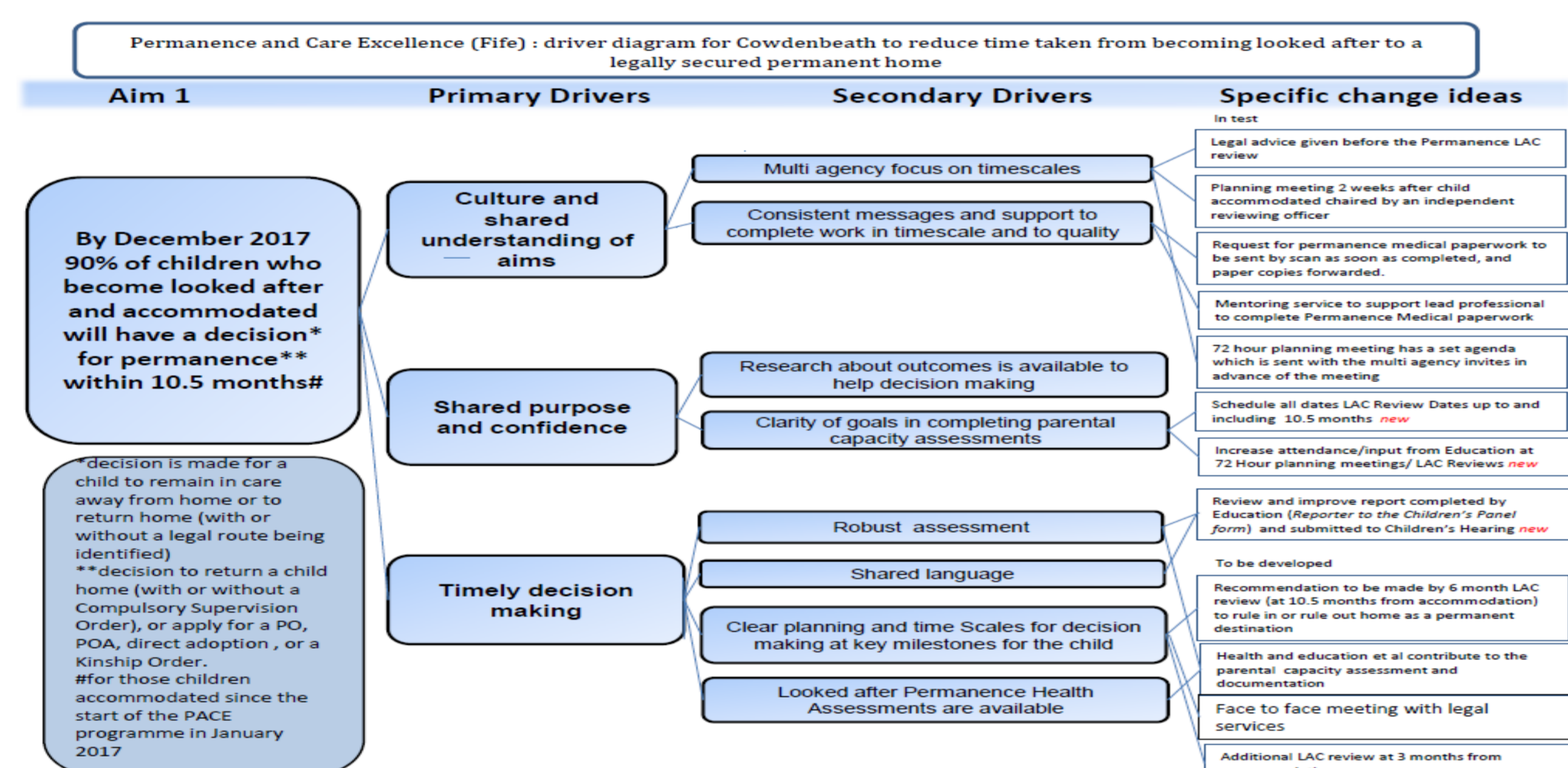


## Process Change

**Theory:** Earlier planning will reduce drift and delay

**Implemented 3 core changes:**

- Explicit discussion regarding permanence options at 72 hour planning meeting - date set when Hearing date is known
- All LAC dates set to 10.5 months to avoid cancellation drift
- 2 week Planning Meeting to set clear goals



## Achievements

- Improvement gains demonstrated in Cowdenbeath in 2017 and sustained in 2018
- Fife PACE selected as finalist for 2018 Quality Improvement Awards
- PACE Scale Up has spread improved process across Fife to the majority of teams
- New Teams developing their own tests of change to improve processes further
- 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

## Key Reference Materials

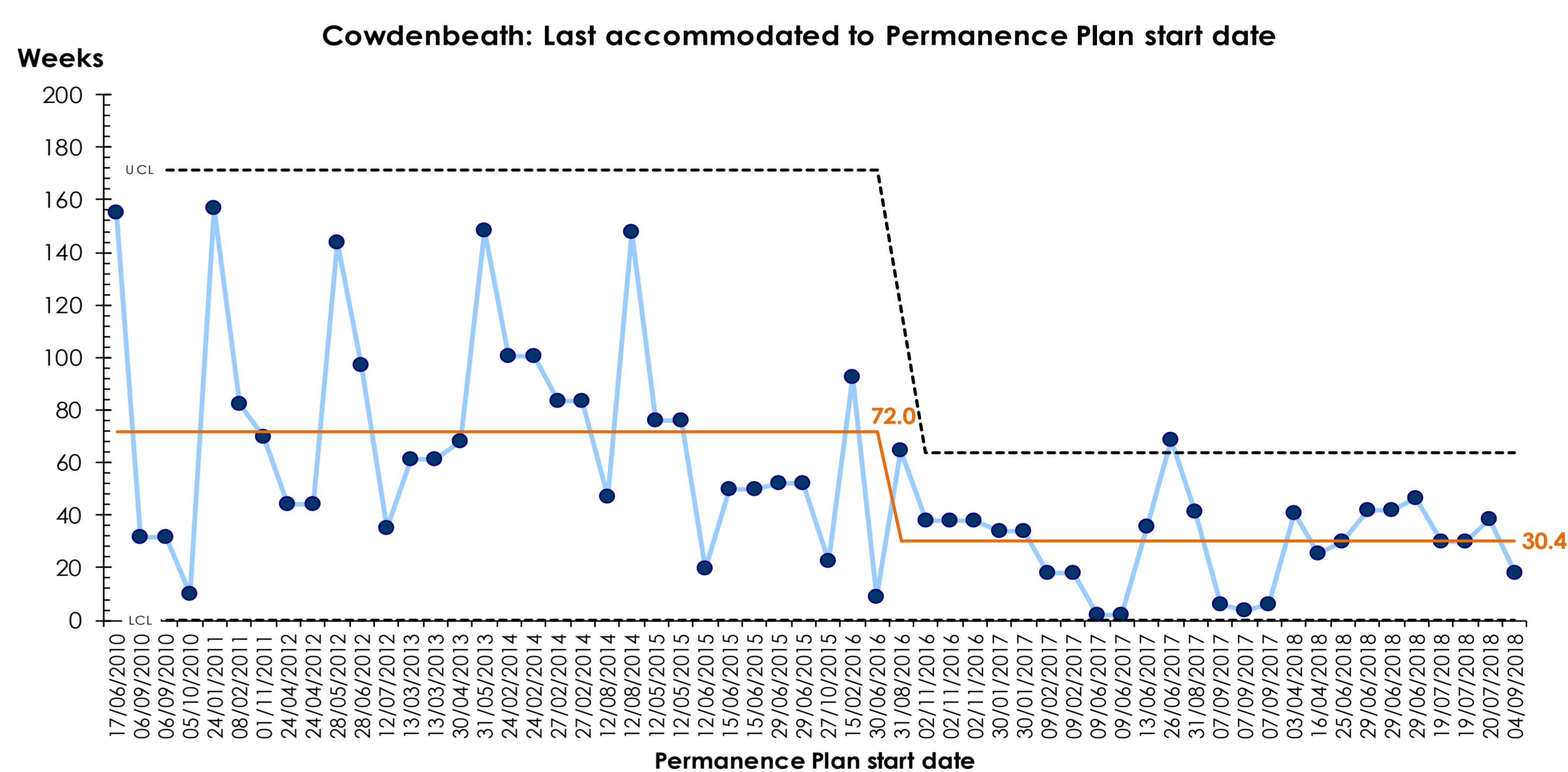
The Improvement Guide, Langley et al, 2009.

## Next steps

- **AIM 2 ;By June 2019, 90% of children who have a decision for permanence away from home will be presented to the ADM within 6 months**
- 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.
- Maintain Enthusiasm!

## 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 72 weeks to 30.



## 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

- Start Small but Aim Big; small scale rapid PDSA test cycles are considered low risk and provide rich learning and knowledge of what works
- The PACE brand has freed innovation and given cultural permission to test new approaches
- As practitioner understanding of PACE and relationships have grown, investment and commitment has increased.