



## Our Strategic Objectives

Midlothian's children, young people and their families will:

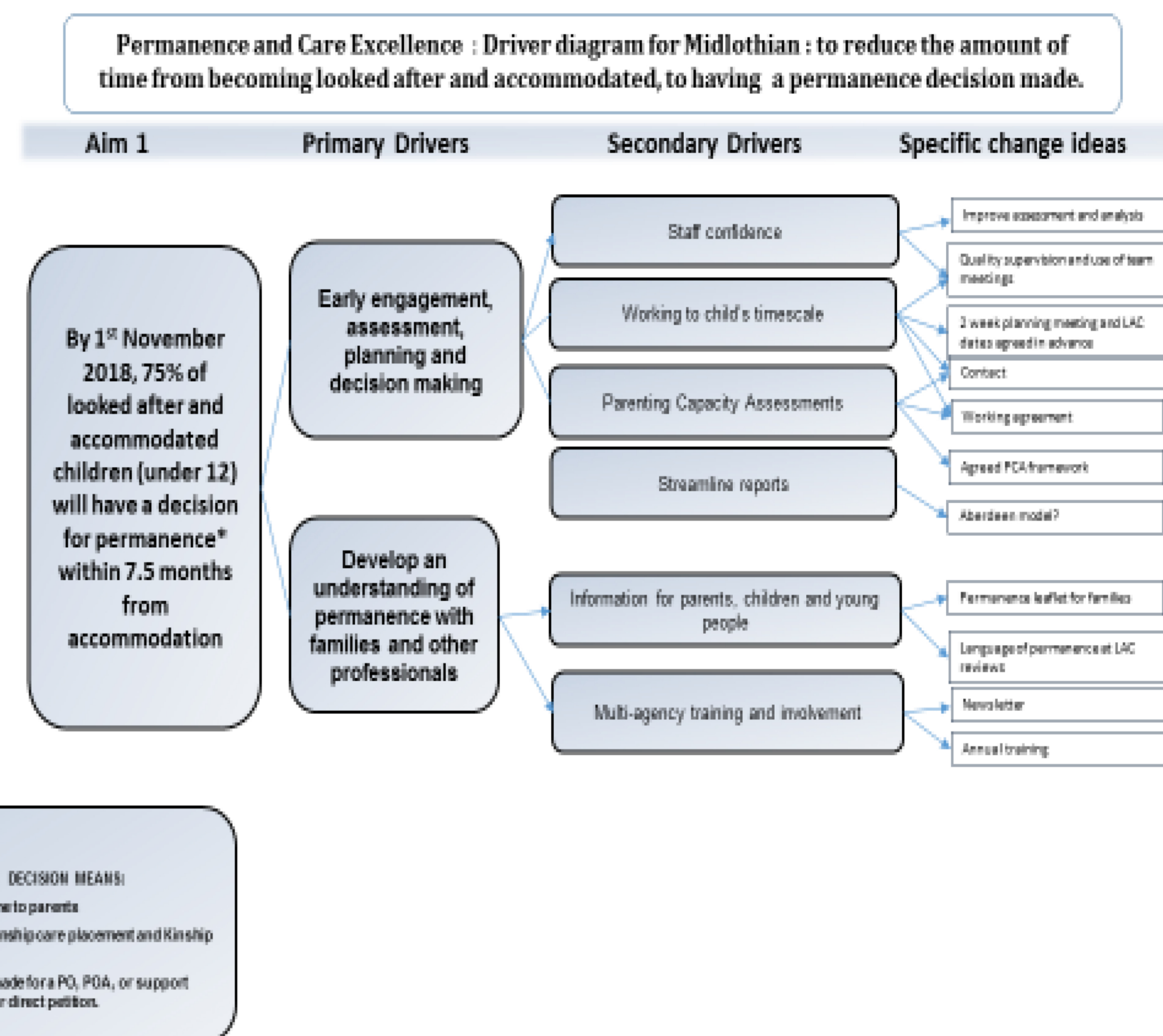
1. Become active participants in shaping services and decision making and so contribute positively to their communities
2. Have access to high quality, responsive local services where staff work together as skilled and valued partners
3. Be enabled to achieve their potential through improved equality of opportunity and respect for diversity
4. Be enabled to develop and maintain safe, healthy and active lifestyles with services which nurture their development, achievement, health, wellbeing and safety.

**Method:** Midlothian Council have prioritised permanence planning since 2015 and our participation in PACE will enable us to take a whole system approach to making changes that will result in an improvement for our looked after children.

To being this work, we needed to know more about our looked after children and their journey through the permanence process.

The data gathered enabled us to consider the journey of individual children (numbered on the run chart) and the time on average it takes all children to move through the permanence process to a legal order.

Based on this data, our initial stretch aim is to reduce the time from a child becoming looked after to a permanence decision being made, by 3 months.



Our initial tests of change are:

- The introduction of a two week planning meeting following a child becoming accommodated and 3 monthly reviews thereafter.
- A permanence leaflet for families, to assist them in understanding what we mean by 'permanence' and the options being considered from the outset.

Other priorities for the PACE champions group:

- Streamlining reports
- Use of Chronologies and individual Timelines
- Pre birth planning
- Kinship care assessments
- Support and information for parents and carers
- Recruitment of carers
- Improve communication within multi agency group
- Interaction with legal
- Engaging with SCRA, panel members /health and education

## CELCIS Measure 2

KPI: Permanence Plan no later than 10.5 months (45 wks) from child first accommodated

