

## Assess the progress of the case plan

The questions outlined below will guide and assist staff in the process of reviewing the case plan for a child and assessing the progress made toward the case plan goal.

### Case plan goal

- Is the case plan goal still appropriate for the child?
- What is the outcome of the family reunification assessment?
- What is the child's age and needs (safety, stability, attachment and connections)?

### Outcomes and actions

- Are the case plan outcomes still relevant?

### Have the key actions been completed?

- If the key actions have not been completed, are they still relevant and what is needed to complete them?
- Are new actions required to achieve the case plan goal and outcomes?
- Are there any current risks to the child's safety?
- What is the outcome of the child and parental strengths and needs assessments?

### Services to child

- What services have been provided to the child and do they meet the child's needs?

### Living arrangements

- Do the child's living arrangements comply with the statement of standards (*Child Protection Act 1999*, section 122 and schedule 1) and meet their protection and care needs and support progress toward the case plan goal?

### Contact arrangements

- Are the contact arrangements consistent with the case plan goal and do they meet the child's needs?
- What is the child's reaction to the parents during contact visits?
- Are the parents focused on the needs of the child during contact visits?
- When the case plan goal is reunification:
  - are there changes that need to be made to contact visits to develop the parent's skills and prepare the parent and child for reunification?
  - has the relationship between the child and the parent improved?
  - are there continuing problems?
- are there ongoing problems which impact on the contact visits such as the child's grief and loss in living away from the family?

- when the case plan goal is long-term out-of-home care for the child, do the contact arrangements maintain and support the child's identity and connection with the family?
- when assessing contact between a child their siblings, other members of the family and cultural community:
  - is the child having contact?
  - how is the child reacting to the contact arrangements?
  - what are the child's views about the contact arrangements?
  - is the contact in the child's best interests?
  - should the arrangements be changed?

### **Child protection orders**

- Is the child protection order still needed or should it be varied or revoked?
- Will another order be required when the current order expires or should the current order be extended? What should be the length of the order or extension of the order?
- If another order is required, what is the most appropriate and least intrusive order for the child (*Child Protection Act 1999*, section 59 and 61)? This decision is made by considering the goal of the case plan, the child's needs (including the need for long-term stability) and the progress made in implementing the case plan.
- When a child has been placed in out-of-home care without an order, will a child protection order be required when the agreed period expires?

### **Additional factors to consider when the case plan goal is reunification**

- Is reunification still in the child's best interests?
- Is it in the best interests of the child to return to live with the parent within a certain timeframe, appropriate to the child's age?
- Are there risks in returning the child to live with the parent within a certain timeframe? What are the risk factors?
- Are there services or actions that are needed to address the risk factors which may prevent reunification?
- Do the identified risk factors indicate that the child will return to live with the parent within a certain timeframe and should planning for out-of-home long-term care for the child commence?
- When this planning has begun, have these arrangements been progressed?

### **Additional questions to ask when the child is in out-of-home care without an order:**

- Does the out-of-home care placement meet the child's needs?
- Does the parent still agree to the child's placement?
- Is it likely that the child will be able to return to live with the parent at the end of the agreed period?