

SBC Permanence Framework



Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
Keeping Swindon Safe

What is the Permanence Framework? The framework is an evidence informed approach to reunification practice, assessment and decision making around permanence, designed and evaluated by the NSPCC and University of Bristol in partnership with Local Authorities. It is intended that the framework is used to assess **whether or not** reunification is the safest permanence option for a child.

What do we have in Swindon and who are the key contacts?
We have forty key assessors across children's services, who will support other practitioners across children's services to utilise the framework within their practice. We have a steering group who will continue to robustly monitor and understand the successes

The Framework can be used at **any point where reunification is being considered**. For many children this will be as soon as they enter care/accommodation, but for some it may be after a period of time where there is a change in their permanence plan and reunification is deemed to be the best option.

The framework may be used when;
The local authority is considering that a child may need to become looked after
A child is on the edge of care or in pre proceedings.
A child is accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.
A child accommodated under Section 20 returns home
A child is subject to a care order or an interim care order.



Many of the children and families to whom the framework applies will already be known to children's services. They will be involved in on-going assessment and support work and the framework is designed to build on this. The Framework promotes professional judgment, enabling workers to apply this judgement within a clearly structured approach.

The aim of the Framework is to improve outcomes for children in relation to return home from care. This means making the best possible decisions about whether or not children return home. Therefore the decision for a child not to return home following a thorough assessment and decision making process will also be the safest outcome for some children

The Permanency Framework includes; an on-going analysis of risk and protective factors, an analytical chronology, a staged approach to assessment and decision making, relationship focused social work practice, is in alignment with statutory guidance, written agreements and SMART goals as well as, multi-agency support pre and post-reunification.

For further information visit the [NSPCC website](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)

safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk