

What is a care plan?

A care plan is a plan written for each child in the CEO's care. A care plan identifies the child's needs and outlines the steps or measures to be taken to meet those needs. It also sets out decisions about the care of the child including those regarding the child's placement and contact between the child and his/her parents, sibling(s) and other significant people in the child's life.

When will a care plan be developed?

A care plan must be prepared and implemented for the child as soon as practicable after the child first comes into the CEO's care.

Can a care plan be changed?

The Department may modify a care plan at any time if it is considered appropriate to do so.

When a child is about to leave care, the care plan must be modified to:

- Identify the needs of the child in preparing to leave care and the transition to other living arrangements; and
- Outline steps or measures designed to assist the child to meet those needs.

The operation and effectiveness of every care plan must be reviewed at regular intervals not exceeding 12 months. In the course of this review the Department must consider any views expressed by the child, his/her parent(s), the child's carers and any other person the Department considers to have a direct and significant interest in the child's wellbeing.

The Department must prepare a written report on the outcome of this review. For example, the outcome of the review may result in the care plan being modified.

Who receives a copy of the care plan?

The Department must ensure that a copy of the care plan or modified care plan is given to the child, his/her parent(s), the child's carers and any other person considered by the Department to have a direct and significant interest in the wellbeing of the child.

What if I do not agree with the care plan?

If the child, his/her parent(s), the child's carer or any other person considered by the Department to have a direct and significant interest in the wellbeing of the child does not agree with a case planning decision they can apply to the CEO for a review of this decision. For further information please refer to a separate information sheet on "Review of Case Planning".