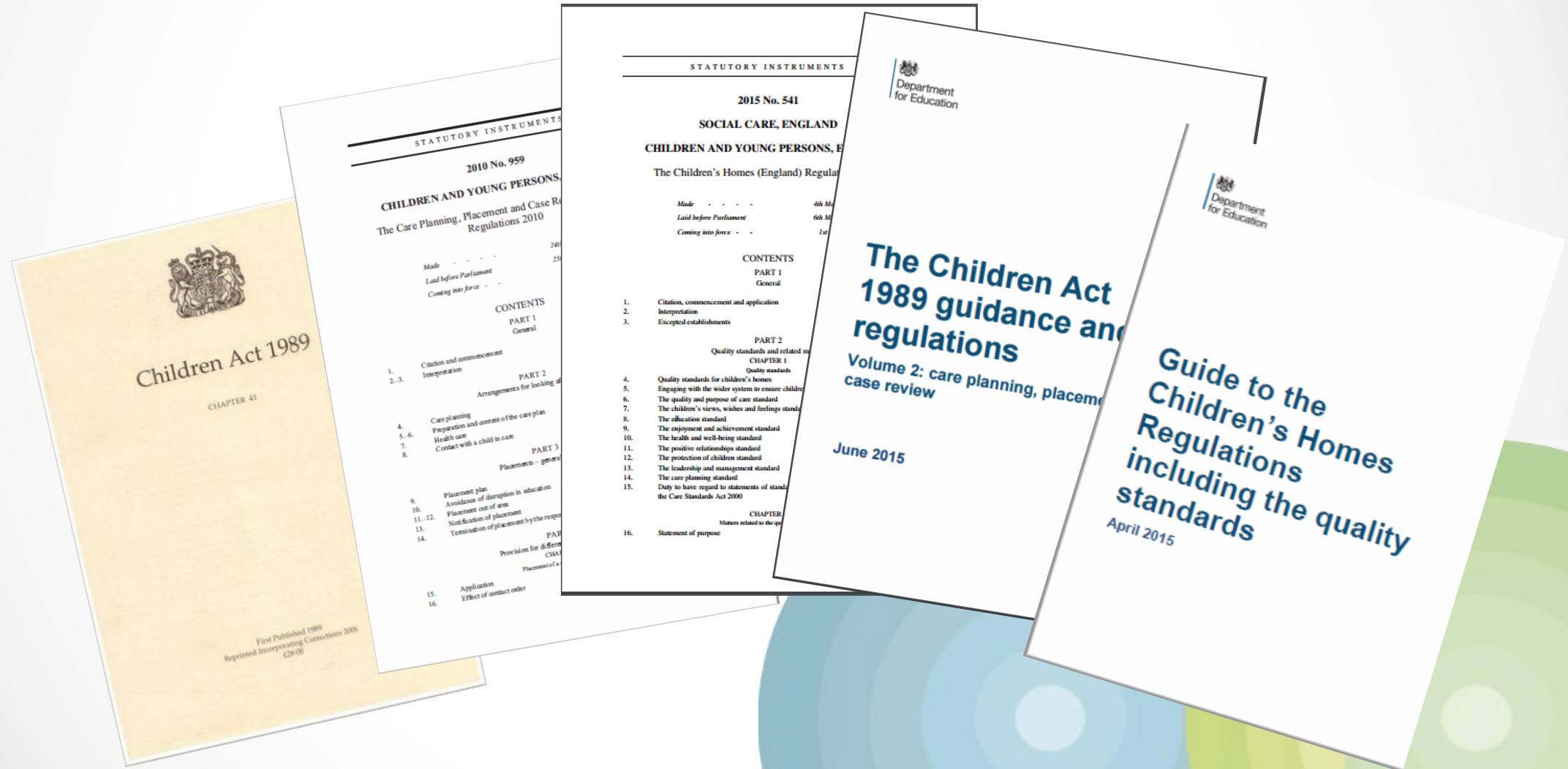




Children's Homes Regulations & Care Planning

Legislative framework

legislation in care planning



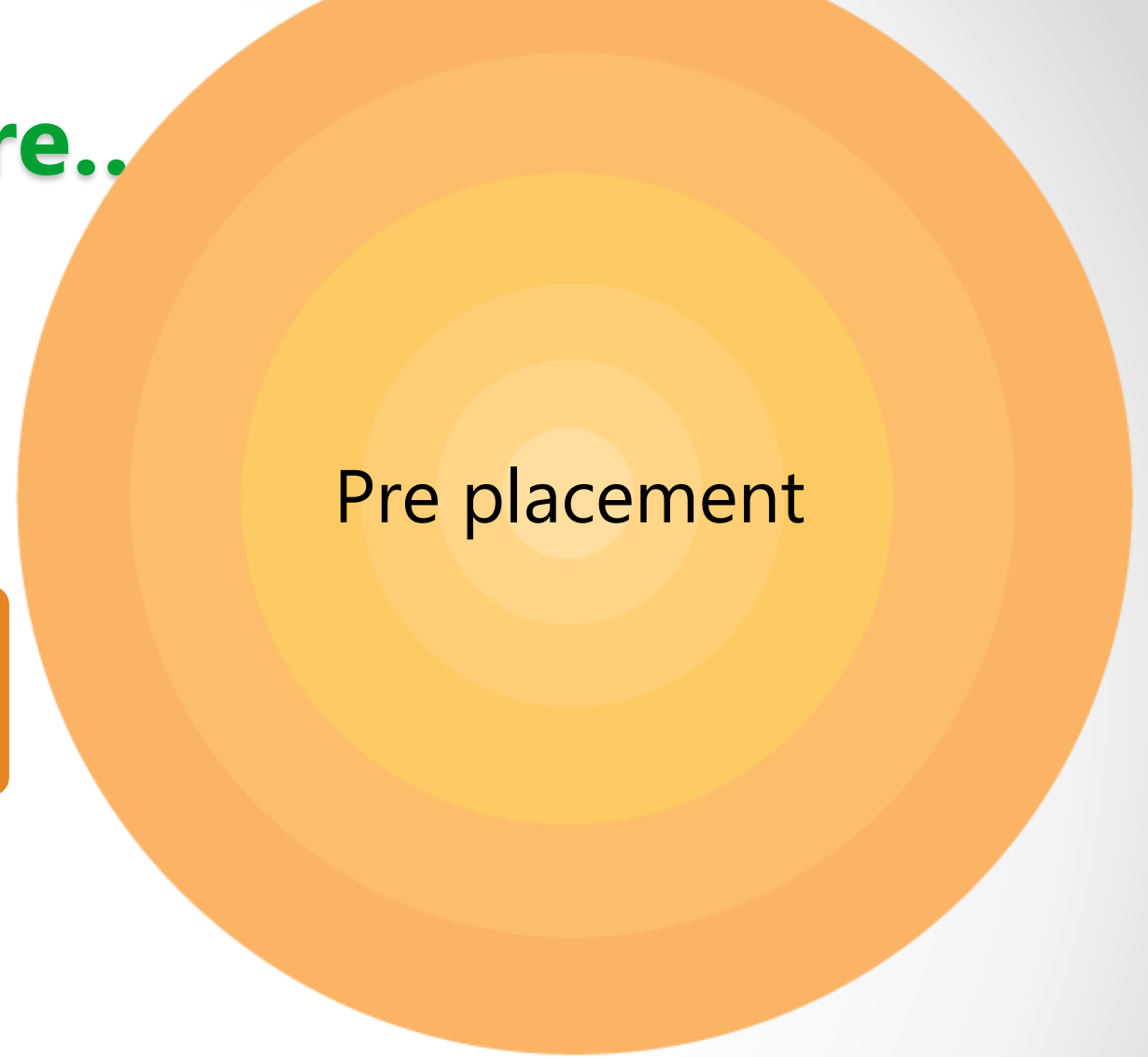
steps through **care..**

Assess needs



Find
placement

Pre placement



steps through care..

Assess needs

Find placement

Placement plan

Pre placement or
in emergency
placements within
5 days

steps through care..



Day of placement

steps through care..



Pre placement or
in emergency
placements within
20 working days

steps through care..



Within a week of placement, then every 6 weeks

steps through care..



Before
placement, or by
the first review

steps through care..



Within 20
working days or
by first review

steps through care..



Within 4 weeks
of placement ,
then after 3
months, then 6
monthly

steps through care..



By 3 months after
16th birthday

when is a child **in care**?

- s20 Children Act 1989 - Accommodation
- s31 Children Act 1989 – Care Order
(or s38 Interim Care Order)
- ‘Looked After Child’
- ‘Child in Care’



section 20

- voluntary
- service people can access from a local authority
- parent can change mind at any time – retains full PR
- at 16 a child can make own decision



short breaks

- all in one setting
- no single break longer than 17 days
- returns to someone with PR
- does not exceed 75 days in any 12 month period



section 31

- child ... is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm; and the harm... is attributable to care given to the child not being what it would be reasonable to expect a parent to give to him; or the child's being beyond parental control.



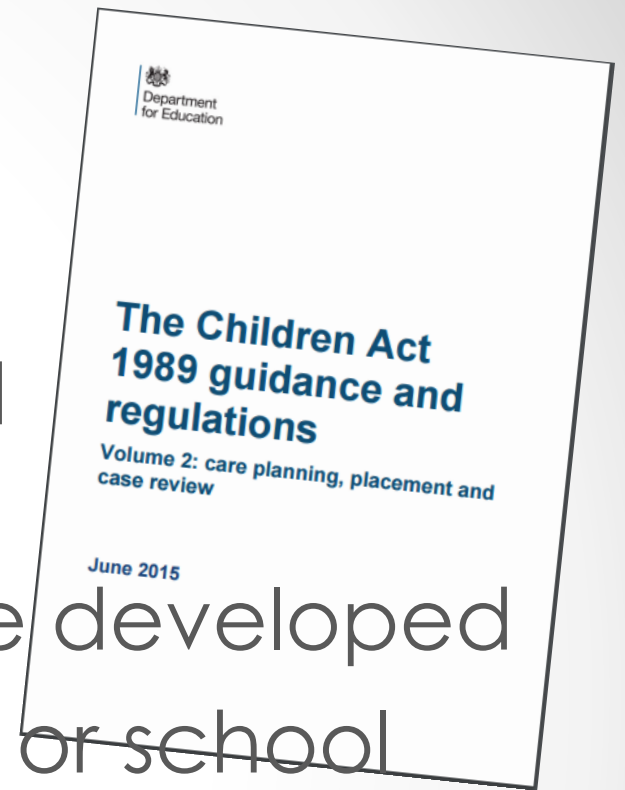
section 31

- court ordered (social workers can't make this decision unilaterally)
- conveys parental responsibility on the local authority so they can make decisions about where the child lives and so on



principles in care

- avoid delay – be timely
- parents should still be making informed choices about their children
- attachment is important and should be developed
- changes of home, carer, social worker or school almost always carries some risk to a child's development and welfare
- all children need to develop their own identity, including self-confidence and a sense of self-worth.
-



assessing needs of the child

prior to any child being accommodated the local authority must consider what the needs of the child are, assess these, and consider how those needs might best be met.

in an emergency, this assessment may initially be very brief



care **planning**

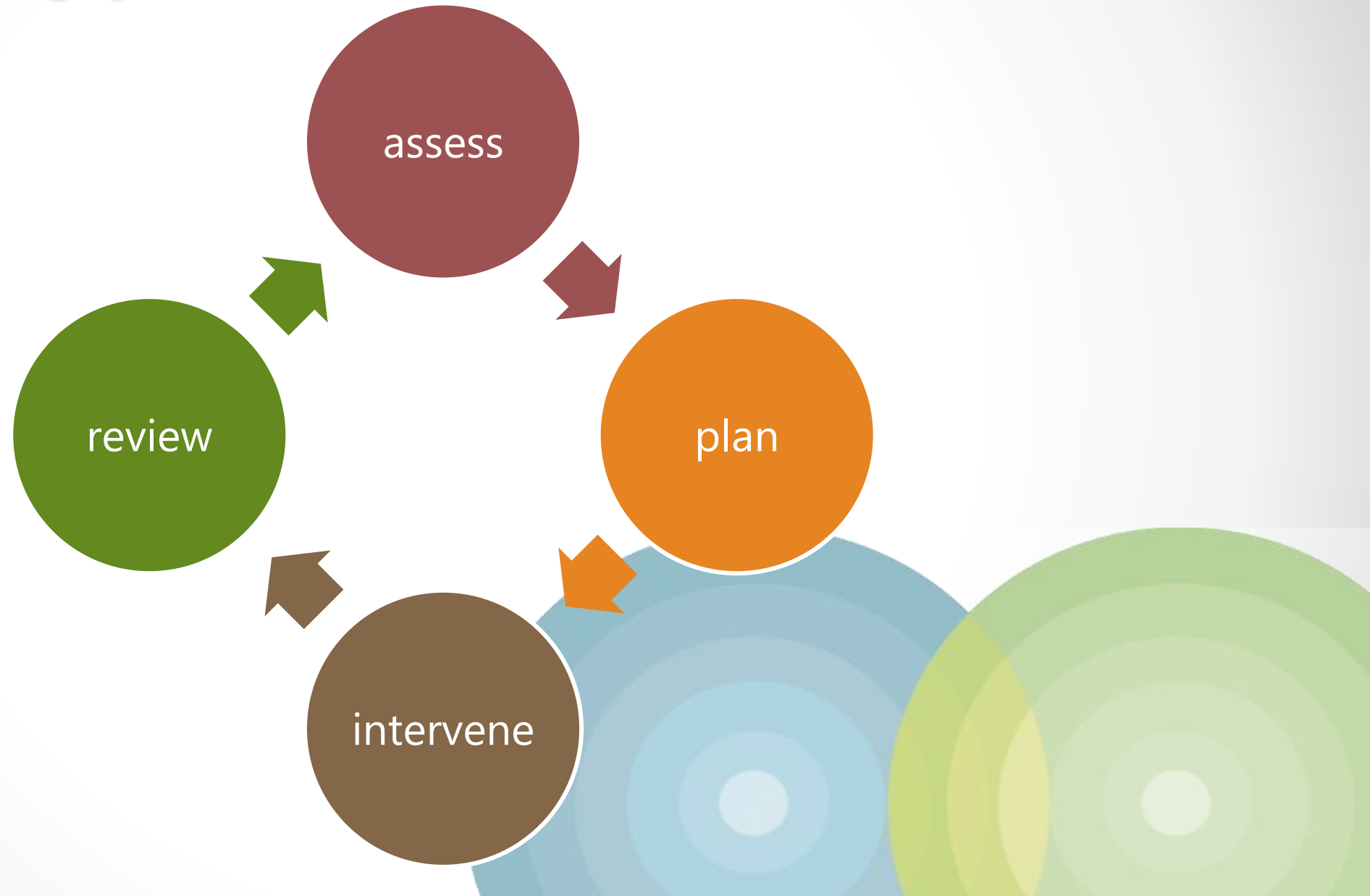
Once needs are understood, the local authority must prepare a Care Plan including:

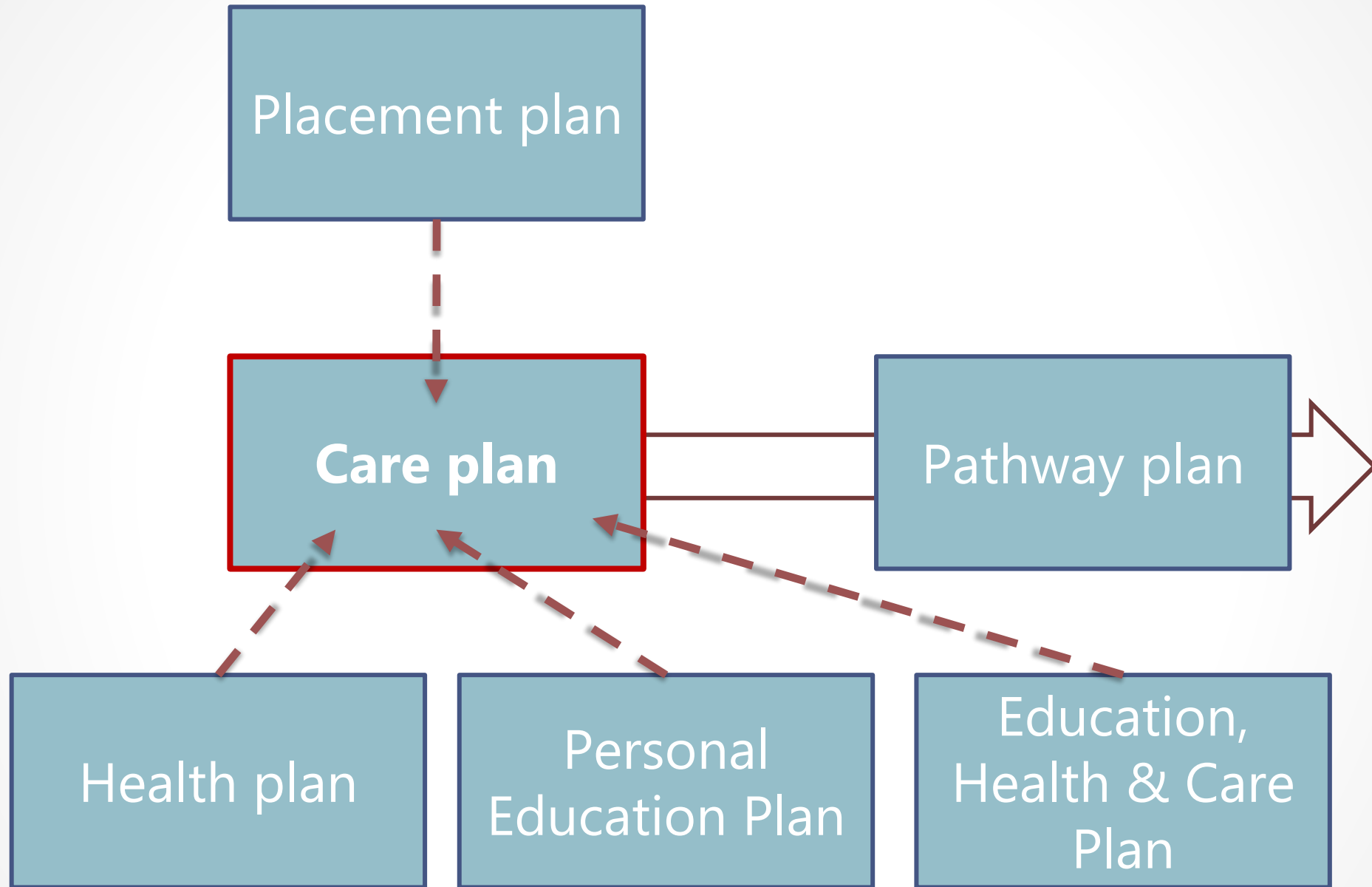
- the plan for permanence
- how the needs will be met and developed
- a placement plan
- an independent reviewing officer
- wishes and feelings

•



care planning **process**





moving in...

- placement plan before, or if necessary within 5 days of, placement
- how the placement meets needs
- ensure wishes and feelings considered
- ensure IRO informed of placement

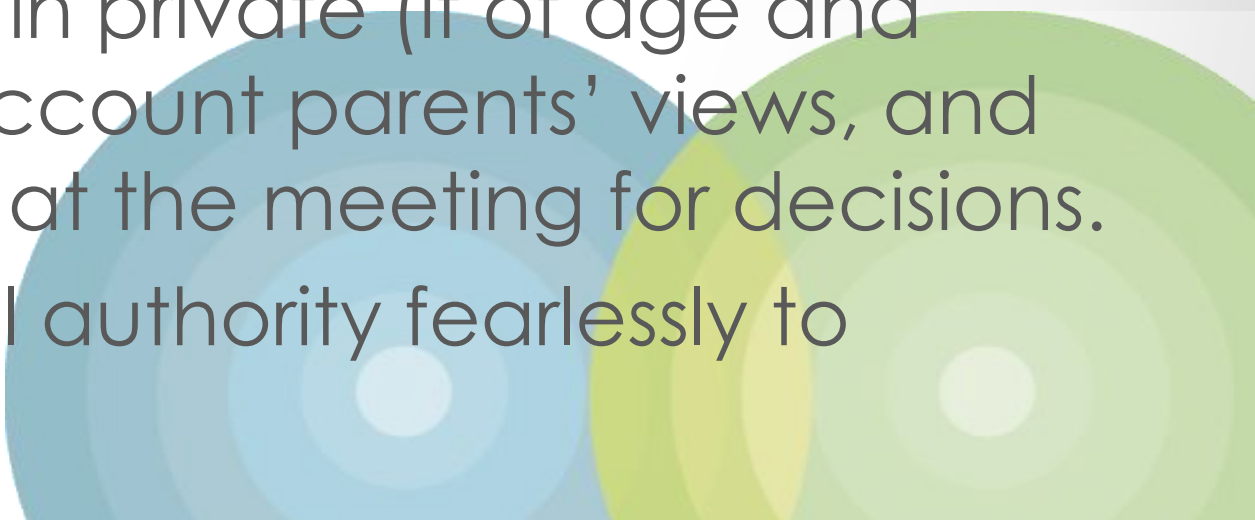


how your care meets **needs**

- day to day care and protection
- time with parents
- health arrangements
- education arrangements
- visits by the local authority
- an independent visitor, if appointed
- how placement can be ended
- name and contact details of SW & IRO
-



Looked After **reviews**

- No significant changes to plan can be made without a review
 - Within 4 weeks of placement, then within 3 months, then 6 monthly
 - Can be more frequent if decided by IRO or if child unsafe
 - IRO must speak to the child in private (if of age and understanding), take into account parents' views, and ensure the right people are at the meeting for decisions.
 - Their job is “to hold the local authority fearlessly to account”
- 

purpose of a review

- ensure care plan is right for the child
- ensure the child's needs are met
- only a LAC review can change the care plan
- within 20 days of placement, 6 monthly

