**Guidance notes to help you complete the Welcome to our Home Leaflet**

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Think for a moment about what it would be like for you to go and live with strangers. I wonder what you would like to know about them before you arrive?

The purpose of the fostering Welcome to our Home booklet is to help children and young people feel a little less uncertain about moving to live with you. The leaflet is used to help plan and prepare them for their move to your home.

We have asked children and young people what they would like to know about foster carers before they move in. We have also asked foster carers what they would like to tell children and young people about them and their family. We have drawn up the attached template using this information.

The template is a guide for the minimum we need. It is up to you how much detail you give about yourselves, your job may not be as important to a child as which football team you follow or your favourite colour, film, food or cartoon character.

You may decide to add some additional photos, - perhaps of you standing by the front door to welcome them in, or the garden where they might play, or where you eat your meals. It’s a chance for you to get creative and it would be really great if the whole family got involved in the project!

Every mainstream fostering home produces a welcome to home leaflet and it needs to be updated at your annual review to make sure the information and photos are still accurate.

The leaflet will not be printed off and handed to the child or young person to take away because we do not know who they may share it with in their excitement or anxiety. Instead, the child’s social worker will sit with them and look through it. They will use it to talk about what is happening in the child’s life and where they are moving. We hope knowing this gives you confidence that we respect your privacy.

If you have any questions about it, please ask your supervising social worker.

Thank you very much.

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