

**Decision for Fostering Regulation 24 Approval (Connected Persons)**

*(Where the placement of a child has been made in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances)*

Yes

No

**Unregulated Placements**

If the child’s temporary placement with the connected Person has exceeded the maximum 24 weeks without decision for full approval the Child’s SW completes Placement **Outside of Regulations Form** and submits to the Divisional Director for agreement.

The Divisional Director must give permission for the child to remain in an unregulated placement & record the reasons why this would be in the child’s best interest.

**Agency Decision Maker**

If approval at Fostering & Adoption Panel not achieved in 16 weeks or decision deferred an **extension up to 8 weeks** can be granted. The **Authorisation for Continued Approval Form** should be presented to the Fostering & Adoption Panel. Panel minutes and recommendation are sent to the Divisional Director for a decision.

Once Temporary Approval for up to **16 weeks is authorised** the case is referred to **PAST** and allocated for full assessment and book a panel date.

PAST will initiate DBS, Adult Health reports and references.

Full assessment completed jointly by Fostering SW and Child’s SW and presented to Fostering & Adoption Panel for recommendation.

**Child Placed**

The Immediate Placement Agreement must be signed by the Connected Persons and the Child’s social worker.

**Looked After Status**

Child’s social worker refers to CPT to request a Connected Persons placement to initiate the Child Looked After status on FWi

CPRS Informed

A Placement Planning meeting MUST be held within 5 days of child being placed.

Weekly visits MUST occur until first LAC Review.

Safeguarding Concerns and threshold to accommodate S.20 Children Act 1989 has been met.

Local Authority involved in the arrangements for the child to be cared for by relative or friend (Connected Person. **Initial Viability / Temporary Approval form** to be completed, agreed and signed by the Service Manager for Regulatory Services & Resources.

Assessment under S.17 Children Act 1989 - not Connected Person arrangement. No further CSC involvement.

**Close the case**

Placements must follow Regulation 24 process to ensure the placement is regulated prior to an SGO being granted.

Follow and complete full Regulation 24 process where a child is in placement. Assessment completed jointly by fostering social worker and child’s social worker.

Fostering social worker is the lead and provides supervision to the placement.

Submission of the court report for the SGO remains the responsibility of the child’s social worker

Regardless of the timescale for completion of the SGO a full Connected Persons assessment should continue to be completed to ensure placement remains regulated.

Yes

Family Group Conference (FGC) or Emergency Placement Required

With Local Authority involvement S.20 and the child has been placed with a relative or friend (Connected Persons) with a permanency plan for Special Guardianship Order (SGO)

Family Group Conference (FGC) or Emergency Placement Required (exceptional and unforeseen circumstances)

Has a relative or friend been suggested by the family as available to care for the child? Has the Local Authority been involved in the arrangements for the child to be cared for by a relative or a friend (Connected Persons).