**AEM Child Profile TEXT GUIDE – updated Oct 2019**

***Please ensure you address the underlined items in the profile, as these are essential questions we need for services we use***

**Could you be the family for…… (Insert Childs name or Childrens names)**

**Brief text about the child’s likes/interest.**

**“Here’s what people say about me”…..**

**Foster carer’s views, Social Workers first impressions, IRO comments – positive messages about the child and their personality/interests.**

**Personality**

* What you see, what about the child makes you like her/him, what makes other people like her/him.
* What the child does or what it is about this child that makes people attracted to this child & what they enjoy about her/him.
* Social presentation – e.g. chatty and responsive or quiet and reserved.
* What the child says about the things that matter to her/him (with quotes if possible).
* Relationships with others – (especially *but not only* siblings & foster carers)
* What the child will give, what ‘rewards’ can adopters expect.
* Any other comments to “bring the child to life”. *Quotes from the child and/or the foster carer can be of great help here (and further down).*
* Ethnicity and cultural identity.
* Physical appearance – including colour of hair, eyes and skin tone & whether height & weight are about average or above or below it.

**Hobbies / Interests**

* What the child likes to spend time doing - e.g. story time, playgroup, favourite toys, games, sports, books, TV programmes, foods, “anything noisy”/ “anything quiet”, outdoor play, indoor play, favourite day trip venues...
* Does the child like to be on her/his own or with lots of other children or with adults?
* What factors affect the child’s ‘mood’ and interactions?

**Education**

* Physical abilities, incl. self-care skills
* Social and academic functioning in education (school or nursery), especially including comments on extra support if it is in place or is needed.
* Academic Achievements & Potential. Indicate whether the child is or is not achieving age-appropriately in general development and at school/nursery or elsewhere.
* Special skills or challenges, e.g. disabilities or learning difficulty known about, including any information about future expectations and whether she/he is expected to ‘catch up’ with peers or what limitations are likely to endure.
* Whether earlier experiences (e.g. of neglect) impact on achievement & progress and future expectations.
* Changes if any that have been shown since moving into foster care.

**Health & Development**

* Brief statement on general health.
* Details of any concerns including prognosis, ongoing tests and/or monitoring and/or special attention from adopters is required e.g. medical, speech, language and mobility.

*N.B. If there is an uncommon issue, descriptions of how the child is affected and what the implications are for adopters is more helpful than giving the name of a ‘condition’ or syndrome on its own; the latter will almost certainly lead people directly to Google/Wikipedia where they then find information which makes them think things are worse than is actually the case, which obviously has the potential to end up being inappropriately off-putting.*

* Development stage indicators - emotional, social & behavioural development stage and to what extent it is ‘age-appropriate’.   
  Impact / signs of any inappropriate earlier experiences, which affect development, e.g. sexualised behaviour.
* Comments on progress and future expectations, especially if there is delay or disability, indicate what changes are expected in future – so far as can be predicted, *i.e. if development is delayed or there are health concerns, do we expect changes for the better or the worse and over what timescale.*
* Any other specific health or development related issues, which adopters would need to address.

**Younger sibling Personality**

**Younger sibling Hobbies / Interests**

**Younger sibling Education**

**Younger sibling Health & Development**

**Birth Family Life**

* What were the circumstances, which led to the child (ren), coming into care? – How this does and may impact on child (ren) now and in future.
* Experience of abuse – How this impacts on child(ren) now and in future
* Attachment history – How this impacts on child(ren) now and in future
* Position in birth family– How this impacts on child(ren) now and in future
* If there are, siblings give a brief explanation of reasons for decision to place together or separately.

**Foster Family Life**

* When entered care and info about any moves in care with brief reasons – (general indication, not a detailed account of every change.)
* What is the composition of the foster carer household and child’s position in foster family age structure and relationship with others in family?
* How far does this seem to work well for the child/children? Have there been changes in the foster carer family, which have impacted on the child/children.
* Social relationships in the family. Did the child settle easily and form good attachments in this family?
* Child’s progress in emotional and behavioural development. Changes seen in child since the move into care and into this family. What all this suggests for the child’s move into adoption.
* Challenges - what the foster carer family find difficult, what they have to pay extra attention to, how they deal with any issues the child presents, how this impacts on the rest of the household & daily life and how they manage this. (Whether to do with behaviour, health, disability or anything else.)
* Rewards - What the family like about looking after this particular child. What the family gain from having this child among them. (This is the antidote to the paragraph above!)

**Wishes and Feelings**

* What the child wants (if the child is pre-verbal some reference to their expressions should still be possible, e.g. her/his positive responses indicate a liking for family life.)
* What relevant others want (e.g. birth parents, foster carers, siblings and their parents or carers if already placed separately)

**Contact Plans**

* Birth parents
* Siblings (where placed separately)
* Other relatives
* Foster Carers

**On-going Anticipated Needs**

* Presenting behaviour – adjustment still required issues that might not ‘go away’.
* Health, Educational needs (current and anticipated). Any health condition the child is at risk of developing due to birth family.
* Special support services in place or required and investigations currently underway
* “Other.”

**Additional Matching Information**

* Anything else about the child (ren) you think is important that does not fit elsewhere in the profile.

**Support Plan**

* What support the adopters of this child can expect to receive. (e.g. Adoption allowance /DLA /Continuing therapy /Option of continuing contact with foster carers)

As with all adopted children, **(Insert child/ren(s) name(s)**) will have an adoption support plan, which addresses specific needs.

Adopters will receive support from the Adoption East Midlands letterbox scheme in relation to post adoption contact and will have access to the AEM Adoption Support team for advice and guidance and for on-going training and social activities offering opportunities for networking with other adoptive parents.

The Adoption East Midlands Post Adoption Support Team will assist if referral to more specialist services is required in future

**Family Sought**

* If there must be two parents or must be one of each gender or there must be at least one ‘stay home’ parent state that with reasons why.
* Parenting style – e.g. whether ‘therapeutic parenting’ skills or a particular approach to managing challenges is needed, include how currently managed, what works, what doesn’t work*.*
* Any other characteristics of the adopter family structure / lifestyle that are desirable or must be avoided i.e. existing children, experience of parenting, pets.

**(Insert child/ren(s) name(s))** is/are in the care of **(Insert Local Authority name)**

**Date of Birth:**

**Ethnicity & Cultural Heritage:**

**Religion:**

**Locations to avoid:**

**Placement order:**

**Details (Date)**

**Photos (Date)**