**Short Term or Emergency Matching Flowchart for Children’s Social Workers**

**Child requires alternative placement**

***Any change of placement MUST be authorised and agreed by the Head of Service for the relevant service area.***

1. Details of circumstances of placement change with details of what action has been taken to stabilise the placement/prevent the need for destabilisation through change of placement as well as a rationale for the social work view in relation to the proposed change to be sent to the relevant Service Manager and Head of Service.

2. Needs and Outcomes to be completed and sent to Team Manager for quality assurance. Once approved, this must be sent to the Placements Team.

3. Any Expressions of Interests received need to be reviewed in line with the child’s needs as the paramount consideration (as below).

**Review of Expressions of Interests**

In reviewing expressions of interests received, the primary consideration must be the child/ren’s needs, the impact of this placement on the child and the capacity of the proposed carers to meet the child or children’s needs.

**Key Questions:**

What are the child or young person’s specific needs? What are the foster carer or placement provider’s specific skills and knowledge and how would this impact on their capacity to meet these needs?

Are there other children, whether birth children or cared for children, in placement? How does impact on the potential match?

What gaps in terms of capacity are there and could these be mitigated by additional support wrapped around the placement?

Have matching discussions involved the appropriate people i.e. the child’s social worker, the foster carer or placement provider, education staff or the Virtual School, other professionals who know and understand the child and their needs?

Has location been considered? Where is the potential placement? Would this placement enable a child or young person to remain within their established local network?

What are the short, medium and long term outcomes intended for this child or young person within this placement? Is this intended to be a longer term permanent placement or a short term, bridging placement? What is the exit plan?

**Child’s social worker and Team Manager must complete the Initial and Emergency Matching Form**

***Any agreement to progress with a proposed placement will need to be agreed by the Head of Service for the relevant service area.***

Child’s social worker and Team Manager must send the completed form to the Placements Team, Service Manager and Head of Service to agree the placement.