**CONCURRENCY AND FOSTER FOR ADOPT CHECKLIST**

**Fostering for Adoption**

Checklist for Social Workers

A “Suitable for FFA” decision needs to be based on evidence that has been properly gathered and analysed.

The decision appropriately reasoned and recorded having attention to Re B-S considerations.

In considering all aspects of Concurrency and Foster For Adopt **the child’s needs and welfare are paramount**.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CHILD** | **Y** | **N** | **N/A** | **Comment** | **Any relevant date** |
| Is the Local Authority “considering adoption” for this child? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Have previous children of birth parent(s) been removed?  What is their status?  Adopted? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Has there been a Permanency Planning Meeting  (This is from 3 months gestation) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Has there been a prebirth assessment? |  |  |  |  |  |
| What other assessments are ongoing/ planned for? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Has Cafcass Plus involvement been considered from 20 weeks pregnancy? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Has there been a Family Group Conference/meeting exploring others in network?  Family and friends ruled out?  IVAs outstanding? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Has there been a Legal Planning Meeting to discuss the case? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Consideration of paternity issues? Has paternity been confirmed?  What plans are there to establish paternity? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Careplan and SWET ready prebirth? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is the child relinquished? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is the child subject to an Interim care order, any other order or subject to proceedings? |  |  |  |  |  |
| **CHILD** | **Y** | **N** | **N/A** | **Comment** | **Any relevant date** |
| If the child is **Section 20** - parents need to agree to a Fostering for Adoption placement. Have parents agreed ?  **Note re case of Re CA 2012 EWHC 2190 (Fam) - High Court – Hedley J :**  **Social Worker must be satisfied of the capacity of the person giving section 20 consent and that they are fully informed.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parents (including birth father without PR) or any other person whose wishes and feelings the LA consider to be relevant (section 22(4)) to be notified of the implications of their child being placed in a fostering for adopt/concurrency placement. A specific letter about LA considering Fostering for Adoption should be sent and reasons (including avoiding placement moves). Parents advised to gain legal representation. In addition to including this in all initial and subsequent care plans as we currently recommend that the following is stated “should the LA progess to a single plan of adoption then consideration will be given to an FFA/concurrency placement”  Counselling to be offered to the birth parents where such placement is being considered. Refer to Birth Parent Counsellor?  Record the date and resource offered and parents response. |  |  |  |  |  |
| If parents do not agree then need an Interim Care Order before can progress to FFA or concurrency placement. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **CHILD** | **Y** | **N** | **N/A** | **Comment** | **Any relevant date** |
| Has there been discussion with the IRO .LAC review can be bought forward.  View of the IRO.  View of Guardian if appointed. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Single plan of adoption, ratified at LAC review? (Not needed for concurrency.) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Refer to Nominated officer who needs to approve the FFA decision. Nominated officer to be made aware of parent’s views. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Early consideration of how the child will be told.  Any direct work/support necessary?  The Childs wishes and feelings need to be recorded |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Foster for Adopt/Concurrency Carers** | **Y** | **N** | **N/A** | **Comment** | **Any relevant date** |
| **Regulation 25A of the Care Planning, Placement and case Review (England) Regulations 2010 enables approved prospective adopters by both local authorities and voluntary adoption agencies to be temporarily approved as foster carers for a named child by the LA with responsibility for that child without having to be approved as foster carers under the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011.**  **Will not apply if the adopters have already been approved as foster carers via Dual Approval Panel for concurrency carers.**  **Necessary paperwork is to be completd by the CCSW and adoption SW following selection of suitable prospective adopters and before the placement can proceed.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Consideration of other children in the identified carer’s family and the impact of placement ( eg where siblings to be placed with other birth sibling now adopted.) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carers need to be fully informed about the nature of the placement, their role as foster carers and that the court can decide an alternative plan to adoption. Specific training relevant to the role provided by the Adoption Service. Adopters to then sign a declaration at this point which explicitly states their understanding of their responsibilities as Foster carers and of the risks associated with FFA. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evidence of carers understanding of both the fostering and adoption role? Signiture as above. Joint visit by Fostering and Adoption Team workers. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Preparation of carers (having regard to any urgency of the placement)? Are the SW’s confident that the carers fully understand the task of taking a child under fostering to adopt. All necessary training has been completed? Signed to confirm this? |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Planning for after placement** | **Y** | **N** | **N/A** | **Comment** | **Any relevant date** |
| Appropriate support and visits by child’s SW and the adoption and/or fostering supervising SW. |  |  |  |  |  |
| LAC Review for single plan of adoption |  |  |  |  |  |
| Placement is under Fostering Regulations.  Need to continue process of :  Adoption Medical  BID  ADM  Placement Order |  |  |  |  |  |
| After Placement Order obtained attend Matching panel to consider “suitability of the match”. Section 33 Adoption Agency Regulations 2005. |  |  |  |  |  |

**Differences and similarities between Concurrency and Foster For Adopt**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Concurrency** | **Foster For Adopt** |
| **Birth family.** | **Birth family.** |
| **Possible Rehabilitation plan** | **No Rehabiltiation plan** |
| **No outstanding Initial Viability Assessments** | **No outstanding Initial Viability Assessments** |
| **Could be an ongoing parenting assessment but likely to be negative** | **No ongoing parenting assessments – all concluded.** |
| **Paternity to be established- but if not known can consider continuing with a warning that this may be an issue.** | **Paternity to be established but if not known can consider continuing with a warning that this may be an issue.** |
| **No single plan of adoption yet.** | **Single plan of adoption by LA** |
| **Adopters** | **Adopters** |
| **Dual approval through Permanence Panel** | **Recommendation only from panel** |
| **No need for Temporary Approval by Nominated Officer** | **Need for Temporary Approval by Nominated Officer** |
| **Full name and address of carers must not be given out.** | **Anonymity of adopters to be protected as there is a single plan of adoption- no use of surname or address given out.** |
| **Carers should support contact arrangements.** | **Carers should support contact arrangements.** |
| **Face to face meeting with birthparents to be promoted whenever possible.A lot of comfort can be given to the birthparent to know who the child is placed with. Safety and security of carers and placement to be considered.** | **Face to face meeting with birthparents to be promoted wherever possible. A lot of comfort can be given to the birthparent to know who the child is placed with. Safety and security of carers and placement to be considered.** |
| **Carer will be actively promoting the potential rehabilitation plan as well as able to go forward with adoption if this becomes the plan for the child.** | **No active rehabilitation plan.** |