**STAGE 2:**

**VIABILITY ASSESSMENT AND DECISION.**

**The second part of the viability is a short assessment of the proposed carers based on a short visit to determine whether there is a merit in a full assessment taking place following an initial discussion.**

**An information pack (obtained from the Family and Friends Team) will be given to prospective foster carers at this stage.**

CHILD / YOUNG PEOPLE’S DETAILS

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| Name of child | DOB | Gender | Client No | Ethnicity | Date child came into care | Legal Status / Any orders |
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| Name/s of Proposed Carer |  |  |
| Address/ Telephone |  |  |
| LA Area |  |  |
| DOB |  |  |
| Gender |  |  |
| Nationality |  |  |
| Religion |  |  |

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| **FURTHER CHECKS** | *Date and outcome:* |
| 1. Date of Police check |  |
| 1. Date of children’s services checks |  |
| 1. Date of visit to the property |  |

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| **THE CHILD(REN)** |
| Child's Views |
| Either interview children, see view on SWET, discuss with SWer?? |
| **THE PROSPECTIVE CARERS** |
| General Information |
| Brief history / significant events   * Own family make-up ie siblings parents etc.   Relationship(s)/marriage(s):   * Length of current and previous relationship/marriage, date of marriage. * Any issues within the relationship e.g. Domestic abuse (past and present) * Significant previous relationships and children from these relationships – include any significant issues. Make it clear that if full assessment happens these significant ex partners will be contacted.   Physical/mental health issues:  • Anxiety; depression; counselling - historical and current issues  • Alcohol - historical and current issues; what? How much? How often?  • Use of recreational drugs - historical and current; what? How much, how often?  • Does anyone in the household smoke? Who and how many cigarettes? Where?  Would they consider giving up?  • Physical problems or disability?  • Weight problems?  • Any past health conditions that require ongoing management/treatment?  • On major medication (e.g. morphine, anti-depressants)? What’s the physical/emotional impact of medication?  • How does any health condition impact on day to day functioning?  • Name and address of GP.  Lifestyle issues which could impact on care (including positive impact):   * Religion; leisure/hobby interests; diet; routines; grandchildren; voluntary work or other commitments   Past/present involvement with agencies   * discussions or concerns regarding involvement from police, probation or adults/children’s services, in Gloucestershire or other Local Authorities * Please include information relating to the applicant’s childhood as well as the present time (e.g. was prospective carer in the care system? Have the prospective carer’s children been in the care system or cared for by family/friends? Problems with parenting their own children?) * What is their immigration status? Do they have rights to remain etc. |
| Assessment |
| **Give an oversight of the risks – again SWET will assist.**  Prospective carer’s understanding of the caring task and the concerns of the LA:  • Does the carer understand the concerns of the LA? Does the carer have access to the full facts and reasons why the LA is concerned? ***has permission been sought from the parents to share the reasons with them?***   * Assess whether the carer understands in broad terms the needs of the child and that the carer understands the level and type of care the child will need throughout their minority as a consequence of their experiences * Is the carer willing to work with services to support the child? * Could the carer manage contact and be able to work with birth parents; will they adhere to plans? Can they prioritise the children over parents? * Can they work with Children Services and be part of a team around the child? * If the child is already placed with the prospective carer(s), ensure that all agencies involved with the child have been asked to comment on the carers’ ability to care for the child, in particular, the Health Visitor if a child is receiving a service from them.   Motivation & commitment to provide care (including attitude to training and development and assessment process - identify any potential issues):   * What’s the background to the potential carer(s) coming forward to care for the child/ren? * Relationship to children – how frequent has contact been previously & how good is the relationship with the children? * Note: The full assessment is very detailed and will involve lots of personal questions about applicants background, DBS checks, medical examinations, referee visits, announced and unannounced visits, training, meetings and court. Are they happy to take part? * How long is carer prepared to care for? What is their understanding of the commitment that they are talking on? Do they understand that we are assessing for permanency for the child including legal permanency. Are they willing to make such a commitment? * Have they considered the impact on their lives and on the lives of any children living in the household. * What is the carer’s level of literacy and numeracy? Are they able to read and write? Are their skills at a level that enables them to contribute to meetings, advocate for child?   Experience with children – personal/professional/voluntary:   * Physical punishment; sanctions; use of praise; age appropriate sanctions; etc * Ability to work within Department Policy re physical punishment and discipline * How did they raise their own children? What would they do if …?   Support and Assistance:   * Explore support network and support available to applicant from Gloucestershire Council. * Attitude of other family members including own children and extended family * If single, is there a partner? Will they be involved? How much will they be involved? * What support do they have in place? Where are they originally from – local or relatives far away? * Are there children living elsewhere? Any issues? * Relationship with family members, including child’s birth parents – close/difficult relationships? How often do they see each other? Do birth parents agree with carer being assessed? * Has prospective carer considered impact of fostering on own children? * What are the children saying? * Attitude to DBS checks on those over 18 years in household or who have significant contact? * Preparation courses and support, allowances and kinship care group. * Access to community resources – Is there anything nearby? Able to access? Want to access?   Accommodation/Health & Safety:   * How long has prospective carer lived at address? * Owner occupier/rented/other? Secure tenancy? At risk of repossession? Comment on stability of the accommodation. * Comment on suitability of home (including garden) for caring – size, safety, hygiene, general condition * What are proposed sleeping arrangements for the child? Assessing social workers to observe all rooms in the house, particularly the bedroom. * Number of bedrooms/areas for play or study - would child have his/her own room? If sharing a bedroom, give details and comment on suitability of the proposed arrangement. * What equipment (e.g. stair gates) would department need to provide? * Is garden secure? Are there ponds, trampolines or other hazards? * Are there firearms at the property? Ensure the shotgun/firearms licence is seen. Give details. * Pets – details and issues arising (e.g. breed, risks, H&S issues) * Any other Health and safety issues arising from inspection of property.   Employment/working arrangements:   * Full time/part time? What are their jobs? Any flexibility? Has applicant discussed their plan with their manager/boss? If yes, is manager supportive?How this will fit in with caring role? * Transport to and from school * School holidays – managing childcare * Attending meetings * Contact – able to manage frequency, transport? * Attending training – commitment to attend   Financial issues:   * Financially stable or not? Any CCJs or bankruptcy? If yes, when? Have you checked the Insolvency register for current bankrupts? Will carer have to give up job to care and will this put huge financial strain on them? Can carer realistically support child?   Analysis of strengths and concerns   * Balancing exercise of the strengths and concerns. * Taking account of all the information gathered in the interview and the information already held about the child/ren and prospective carer/s, consider suitability/eligibility with regard to the needs of the child/ren |

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| **RECOMMENDATION AND DECISION:**  Recommendation  Set out whether or not a full assessment is appropriate. In the event that a full assessment is not considered appropriate, clear reasons need to be set out as to why. This should address why support could not meet the issues identified.  Taking account of the information above is a full Assessment appropriate. YES/ No  Set out clearly the reasons for the recommendation.    If yes, is there an exceptional reason why the child needs to be placed YES/ NO  immediately with the connected person/prospective carer?  **If YES, the following regulation 24 assessment must be completed to comply with Regulations and approval must be given by the Agency Decision Maker (Fostering), Service Manager for Regulated Services. (note: approval to accommodate the child must be obtained first from the Locality Service Manager using the Placement Request Form.**  I have written this report from my reading of the Children and Young People’s Services records and from my own personal knowledge. I believe that the facts stated in this report are true.  Signed Julie … Dated ……….  Name:  Social Worker  I approve this recommendation and accept the reasons outlined by the social worker. Add comments if necessary.  Signed ………………………………………. Dated …………………………..  Name:  Team Manager |
| I have read the report and make the following comments:  Prospective Carer/s ………………………….Dated……………………  **Name:** |