**SPECIAL GUARDIANS (SGO) /CONNECTED PERSONS FLOWCHART**

For a child in need who may require accommodation (e.g. in pre-proceedings or where care proceedings are in progress/First Court Directions/Permanency Planning

Family or friends put themselves forward to be assessed to care for the child

Decision is made about prioritizing (if 2 families or more) prospective carers to go forward for viability assessment.

**Decision is made for child to be LAC and Parallel Planning for Permanency to be agreed**

Stage 1: Initial viability screening

Completed by the Child’s Social Worker – choose the most appropriate family to go forward and check on PARIS/Police checks possible if child is to be placed in emergency

If this is satisfactory stage 2 must be undertaken – Referral to SGO/Fostering Team for VA

Stage 2: Joint Viability Assessment Visit

Referral for viability assessment is made to Fostering/ SGO Duty. A joint home visit & assessment of the potential carers is undertaken by the SGO/Fostering worker and the Child’s social worker. The interview is led by and the assessment form is completed by the SGO/ fostering social worker with contributions from the child’s SW. Signed assessment (exc. Reg 24) must be sent Fostering/SGO Recruitment and Assessment for allocation.

If assessment is for Reg 24, it must be sent to HoS (SAT/SAF) for authorisation and only then can it be allocated.

**Planned fostering assessment/SGO**

**Emergency Placement (Reg 24)**

In an emergency a child may become LAC and is placed with the carers under Regulation 24 (arrangements for the temporary approval of a connected person as a foster carer) to allow an immediate placement.

An emergency placement under Regulation 24 can only go ahead following agreement from the Head of Service (SAF). A Regulation 24 placement must not exceed 16 weeks.

Fostering/SGO Team completes full Fostering or SGO assessment to meet timescales.

Fostering and SGO assessments use the same Fostering BAAF form and Fostering assessments must meet Fostering regulation standards.)

If a Fostering assessment, this is presented to the Foster Panel for recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker, before child is placed.

**Stage 1**

Initial Screening

(Child’s Social Worker)

**Stage 2**

Viability assessment visit and write up – Fostering SW and child’s SW.

**Foster Panel & Agency Decision Maker**

**Recommendation and Approval**

Full Fostering Assessment and/or SGO assessment

Fostering worker writes report using BAAF Assessment form.

Temporary approved connected carers are supervised every 6 weeks as approved foster carers.

Child’s SW to be clear if SGO needs to be considered alongside fostering assessment. If for SGO fostering/SGO worker also completes support plan (with advice from SGO Support Team).

Note that this may turn into a report for purposes of obtaining SGO, during assessment

*SGO may be granted before the need to attend Foster Panel*

**SGO assessments**

 **– QA by Fostering/SGO Manager and sign off by ATR Panel or HOS regarding the Support Plan & Resources**

*Regulation 25: 8 weeks extension can be granted by Foster Panel in exceptional circumstances*

*If placement becomes unregulated (out of timescale) children need to be moved or ADM to agree for limited period of time on this placement considering all the risks*

**Court decision**

**SGO Granted**

**Referral to SGO Team for POST SGO support for Guardians/carers**

**SGO with** **Supervision Order** attached –the case it’s allocated to SAF social worker and **carers referred to SGO Team for POST SGO support for Guardians only**

**Post SGO Support Available for Guardians/carers**: Support Groups, Training, Guidance to Universal Services

Guardians are allocated to SGO SW

Short term support for children **if agreed on ATR/Court** only with No supervision order attached: Life Story/ Letter Box (internal or commissioned externally)

If within 12 weeks CP concerns arise a Strat Meeting will be organised by SGO Social worker and invite previous SAF social worker to look at concerns; if need for S45 and decision for Level 3 Support (CIN services) the case moves back to SAF; if no need for Level 3 Support case will stay with SGO team and referral to universal services or working plan with the Guardian agreed

If after 12 weeks CP concerns arise, SGO social worker will organize a Strat Meeting and refer/invite MASH team

Case referred back to MASH/SAT