**1.** **Persons Disqualified from Fostering**

A person is disqualified from acting as a foster carer for the local authority if s/he or any adult member of the household has been cautioned for or convicted of an offence against a child which involves violence or bodily injury (other than common assault or battery), cruelty (to a child under 16), indecency, abduction, the supply of Class A drugs or the importation/possession of indecent photographs of a child under 16 or a sexual offence against a child unless the offence was contrary to sections 6, 12 or 13 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 and the person concerned was under 20 when the offence was committed. A list of the specific offences is set out in the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Applications to foster will not be considered from anyone who owns a pet that is registered or required to be registered under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976

If the applicant or a household member has a conviction within the last two years, a serious offence or a history of offending, the application will be taken to a Fostering Panel before proceeding.

Serious offences would include:

* Exceptions to the specified offences within the regulations i.e. teenage offenders;
* All those specified offences where the victims were adults;
* Murder, manslaughter, rape, armed robbery, blackmail/extortion;
* Violent offences including GBH, ABH, wounding, assault;
* Aggravated burglary;
* Drug dealing/supply, possession of illegal drugs;
* Prostitution, living off immoral earnings;
* Racism, fraud/dishonesty;
* Drink driving;
* Serious motoring offences.

Panels would expect to see applications where an applicant has a conviction for any of the above offences identified. In doing so, they require information on the following factors to be available in order to consider whether to recommend that the application / assessment should proceed:

* Age when offence committed;
* Age now;
* Circumstances of the offence;
* Any supporting / corroborative information e.g. police report, probation etc;
* Outcome of court case, i.e. custodial sentence (length), fine etc;
* whether disclosed on application form, and if not disclosed any explanation offered;
* Applicants attitude to offence;
* Current circumstances;
* Any post conviction work undertaken with the offender to address their offending