

**Checklist to consider when completing a visit to potential adopters**

The visit is completed by the Adoption Social Worker jointly with the Child’s Social Worker and their manager, who have prior knowledge of the child and have read the PAR.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Issues to consider during the visit to prospective adopters** | **Questions for adopters** | **Additional notes** |
| Give prospective adopters a full representation of the child, offer them additional updated information in relation to the child’s health and development, their education, relationships with their carers and how these relationships have developed over time. Remind prospective adopters how children behaved when they moved in to foster care and that it is likely for children to display similar behaviours when they move again | From this perspective, how would adopters envisage managing such behaviours? |  |
| Depending on the age of the children, they are likely to move schools and lose friendships | How would adopters envisage helping the children through this transition? |  |
| Many times children will come with a level of uncertainties; these may be in relation to their health and long-term physical development or in relation to their emotional needs in the medium and long-term. It is important that adopters are offered a realistic picture of the children, focus on the children’s strengths but also on the uncertainty that adoption brings | How would adopters manage uncertainty in terms of the children’s health/learning needs & ability to achieve?  What are the adopters’ expectations from their adopted child(ren)? |  |
| Remember to talk about children’s routine and how they respond to boundaries, nurture and play. Talk about any issues experienced by the foster carers and what works well. | How would envisage prospective adopters managing the children’s behaviours?  Why do they think these behaviours become apparent? |  |
| If there is a sibling group being placed for adoption, talk about their relationship and about their strengths and vulnerabilities as siblings. | Check what is adopters’ understanding of sibling relationships and how they would manage the issues within this specific sibling group, in terms of their individual needs and their needs as a sibling group |  |
| If there are any siblings not being placed with the child, be clear about expectations regarding long-term contact. | Talk to adopters about the reasons why certain types of contact were agreed and ascertain how they would manage these.  Do they have any worries in relation to contact? |  |
| Specific questions in relation to the child(ren) | Why did adopters want to find out more about this specific child? What attracted them to the child?  Having read the CPR, what did adopters think about the birth parents?  How about the extended family and the circumstances that led to the child being adopted?  How would they help their child to make sense of their history? |  |
| Specific issues/questions in relation to prospective adopter(s) | Anything specific from the adopters’ background and how this may be triggered by a child being placed with them  Their support network and how adopters envisage using their friends and family.  How have they prepared their support network for the arrival of their child?  If there are children in the adoptive family – how were they prepared for the arrival of an adopted sibling? Any issues that prospective adopters envisage between their child and an adopted child? How would they address these?  If adopters’ ethnicity is different from that of the child’s – what are their plans to help the child learn about their culture? How do they experience and promote difference in their household/extended family/support network?  Their employment and adoption leave, childcare arrangements after they go back to work  Any issues with their accommodation or pets.  Closeness to schools and any research they’ve completed on the local schools re. their approach to CLA/adopted children. |  |