**Long Term Fostering Matching Process**

The ability of the carer to meet the long-term needs of the child should be assessed and permanence discussed with the carer to ensure they understand, agree and are fully committed to the child

A child in care should have a clear permanence plan by the second Child in Care review. If the child’s permanence plan is LTF, regular (6 weekly) PPMs have been held, the child has been with the carer for a reasonable amount of time (bearing in mind that delay is detrimental to the child) and a PPM has determined that the carer is a potential long-term match then the Matching process should be followed



Support needs to be discussed with the CSW, SSW and carer. The SW should also ensure that sensitive conversations take place re the match with the child’s birth parents.



A Matching report to be drafted jointly between CSW and SSW

A Matching meeting to be held, chaired by a Team Manager to consider the proposed match, how the carers can meet the child’s needs and what support they might need



Within 1 week of completion of matching report

Matching Report finalised by the Team Manager that chaired the Matching Meeting

Within 2 weeks of matching meeting



Child’s Social Worker to present the proposed match to the **Permanence Panel; papers to be presented are the Matching Report & the Foster Carers last Annual Review**



Within 3 weeks of the Team Manager’s agreement

Letter to be sent to the foster carers & child’s birth parents & certificate/letter sent to the child/young person and the occasion to be suitably marked by the family. All records should be placed on Eclipse & consideration given to reducing visits to the child should this be in their interests.

Within 1 week of permanence panel

