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**Long Term Matching Guidance**

**Purpose**

To provide the Fostering Panel with up to date, comprehensive information about the child’s needs and the potential of the proposed foster family to meet those needs.

Long term matching provides permanence to children and young people with a plan of long-term fostering.

**NB: Local practice is that long term matching via fostering panel does not happen for children over fourteen years old unless there are special circumstances.**

**Report**

The report should be initiated by the child’s social worker. This is located under forms on Liquid Logic and is named – **Matching Report (Long Term Fostering)**.

**Headings**

* **Child / Young Person’s Details** – This page will be pre-populated with information from the child’s file.
* **Child’s Needs** – To be completed by the child’s social worker.
  + - **Pen Picture** - **Please describe the child’s journey to the current day. This should provide a succinct narrative describing the child and their journey.**
    - **Geographical considerations** - Comment upon geographical considerations (including any risks or vulnerabilities) such as the need for contact, friendships, and sense of identity.
    - **Child’s needs -** Comment upon the child’s emotional needs and how this arrangement will meet them (paying particular attention to the child’s background, experiences in care to date, adjustments to changes, relationships within and outside the placement, (also paying particular attention to sibling relationships between other fostered children and the carer’s birth children), and any required support around therapeutic needs).
    - **Preparation work** - What preparation, including life-story work, has been undertaken with the child to ensure the best chances of achieving long-term stability are achieved (include any ongoing support requirements)?

* + - **Family time** - What plans are in place to facilitate family time with birth family?
    - **Child’s wishes and feelings -** What are the child’s wishes and feelings (bearing in mind their age and understanding) about the proposed plan to seek long-term matching with the carer/s? Please consider whether it is appropriate for the child to attend Fostering Panel to speak for themselves and if it is, please discuss with the Agency Advisor at least 2 weeks prior to the panel date.
    - **Matching certificate** - Does the child or young person wish to have a matching certificate? How would they like to celebrate this match?
    - **Birth family views** - What are the views of the child’s birth family about the proposal to seek long-term matching with the carer/s?
    - **Connected people -** Please comment upon actions undertaken to ensure all possible connected people have been considered and ruled out in terms of providing a long-term home.
    - **Independent Reviewing Officer** – Name, date views sought and views to be recorded.
    - **Care plan** - Has the permanence plan of long-term foster care been ratified at the child’s Statutory Review.
* **Fostering option** – Is this an independent fostering agency foster carer? Select Yes / No.
  + - **In-House** - If the foster carer or carers are in-house foster carers, please select their fostering social worker and please ensure you select start new form. This will initiate a form being sent to the fostering social worker’s Liquid Logic tray for them to complete information regarding the foster carer / carers and their capacity to care long term for the child. This will then be sent to the fostering manager for their comments and recommendation.
    - **Independent Fostering Agency** – Please ensure the completed word template completed by the agency is attached to the form prior to sending to your line manager for agreement.
* **Check List and agreement -**

Documents required – Tick to confirm documents are attached.

Social workers conclusion and recommendations to be added.

Team manager comments and recommendations to be added.

* **Decision –** To be completed by Agency Decision Maker.
* **Panel Admin page** – To be completed by panel admin.
* **Attachments -**
  + - Photograph of foster family (to include the child)
    - Word template from fostering social worker (If agency carers)
    - Foster carers annual review
    - Consultation forms