**Reg 24 Placements with ‘Connected Persons’ – Care Planning and Placement Regulations 2010: Decision Making before Placing Children**

If a social worker is involved in the decision to move a child to a family member or a family friend because we have decided they cannot, or should not live at home then you are making that child ‘Looked After’. The new carer becomes a foster carer, the placement will be subject to fostering payments, fostering regulations and foster panel approval.

**BEFORE** you place any child with a family member or family friend the following basic enquiries and checks should be made. (Always consult with the Family Placement Team and request a joint visit to complete the viability assessment).

Children cannot be placed without the agreement of the Head of Service.

1. **Carry out Police checks** on all adult members of the household over the age of 18.

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1. Determine that the new carer has an **existing and healthy relationship** with the child.

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1. Determine the **age of the carers and any health issues** that might mean they will struggle to care for the child immediately and if relevant, for the anticipated duration of the placement.

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1. **Check any history of the new carer on Care Director** and any concerns with regards to them parenting their own children. If they live outside West Berks (or have lived outside West Berks in the last 5 years) **undertake checks with the relevant Local Authority/Authorities**.

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1. Determine whether the **accommodation and sleeping arrangements** are suitable?

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1. **Meet with the adult members of the household** and satisfy yourself that they are capable and suitable to care for the child(ren).

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Agreement from Head of Service: signed ………………………………..

Date ………………………………..

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| Head of Service Comments: |

**Once the placement is made:**

1. Update looked after status on Care Director by social worker.
2. Book into A&R Panel.
3. Make an immediate referral to Family Placements Team for a full Connected Persons assessment.
4. Family Placement Team will book into the fostering panel before the 16 week deadline.
5. All other statutory duties and informal processes with regards to Looked after Children apply and must be adhered to.