**Sandwell Big Foster Family Housing Project**

**Terms Of Reference.**

Panel Representatives:

SCT Commissioning Head of Service

Fostering Service Manager/Registered Manager

Housing Best Use of Stock lead

Private Housing Landlord representation

Health Occupational Therapy

Business Support SCT

**Purpose:**

To create a multi-agency approach to promoting and ensuring appropriate housing stock is available to meet the needs of Sandwell Children. This is to enable children to remain in a family environment with foster carers, including connected carers.

This will be done by a managed overview of new fostering household applications, applications for larger properties, housing swaps, housing extensions, and supporting appropriate private provision.

The panel will meet monthly.

Advice and support may be accessed from other officers/partners as and when required e.g. Finance/Legal/Housing Standards Officer.

The panel will not have a financial decision-making role. Financial decision making will remain with SCT Resource Panel.

The panel will consider housing efficiencies and resources.

**Pathway:**

Social worker/officer completes a referral



Referrals to [Fostering\_HousingReq@sandwellchildrenstrust.org](mailto:Fostering_HousingReq@sandwellchildrenstrust.org) by the social worker/officer

Where property alterations/extensions are being requested a prior meeting between the social worker and the housing standards officer should take place.

The social worker and housing standards office should co-present at Panel where there is a request for a housing alteration/extension. The social worker will provide the social and emotional rationale and the housing officer will provide the building expertise.

Paperwork should be provided 5 working days prior to the panel meeting.

The panel will review the referral, consider any other expertise that may be needed.

The panel will make recommendations/requests/actions and upload onto an action tracker.

At the start of every meeting the action tracker will be reviewed and updated.

The social worker will be responsible for adding a case note to LCS of the outcome/actions.