**FOSTERING FOR ADOPTION CHECKLIST FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

A “Suitable for FfA” decision needs to be based on evidence that has been properly gathered and analysed, the decision appropriately reasoned and recorded having attention to *Re B-S* considerations.

In considering all aspects of FfA, **the child’s needs and welfare are paramount.**

**Name of child**:

**Date of birth**:

**Local Authority ID**:

**Decision-making meeting**:

**Date**:

**Attendance**:

**Chair** *(this should be Local Authority Manager)*:

**Child care social worker**:

**Adoption Team Manager / Family Finding Social Worker:**

**IRO**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CHILD** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** | **Comment** | **Any relevant date** |
| Is the local authority “considering adoption” for this child? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Have previous children of birth parent/s been removed?  What is their status?  Adopted? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Has there been a permanency planning meeting? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Has there been a pre-birth assessment? |  |  |  |  |  |
| What other assessments are ongoing/planned for? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Has there been a Family Group Conference/ meeting exploring others in the network?  Family and friends ruled out?  Initial viability assessments (VAs) outstanding? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Has there been a legal planning meeting to discuss the case? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Has there been consideration of paternity issues? Has paternity been confirmed? What plans are there to establish paternity? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Are the care plan and social work evidence template (SWET) ready pre-birth? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is the child relinquished? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is the child subject to an interim care order, any other order or subject to proceedings? |  |  |  |  |  |
| If the child is Section 20, the parents need to agree to an FfA placement. Have the parents agreed?  Note re: case of *Re CA – 2012 EWHC 2190 (Fam)*  *– High Court – Hedley J:* social worker must be satisfied of the capacity of the person giving s.20 consent and that they are fully informed. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parents (including birth father without PR) or any other person whose wishes and feelings the local authority consider to be relevant (s.22(4)) to be notified of the implications of their child being placed in an FfA placement. A specific letter about the local authority considering FfA should be sent and reasons (including avoiding placement moves) given. Parents advised to gain legal representation.  In addition to including this in all initial and subsequent care plans, we currently recommend that the following is stated:  should the local authority progress to a single plan of adoption, then consideration will be given to an FfA.  Counselling to be offered to the parents where such placement is being considered. Refer to birth parent counsellor?  Record the date and resource offered and parent’s response. |  |  |  |  |  |
| If parents do not agree, then an interim care order is needed before the local authority can progress to an FfA placement. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Has there been discussion with the IRO? The LAC review can be bought forward  View of the IRO  View of the Guardian, if appointed |  |  |  |  |  |
| Refer to Nominated Officer (ADM) who needs to approve the FfA decision. Nominated Officer to be made aware of parent’s views. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Early consideration of how the child will be told  Any direct work/support necessary?  The child’s wishes and feelings need to be recorded. |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **FfA CARERS** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** | **Comment** | **Any relevant date** |
| Reg. 25A of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 enables approved prospective adopters by both local authorities and VAAs to be temporarily approved as foster carers for a named child by the local authority with responsibility for that child without having to be approved as foster carers. This will not apply if the adopters have already been approved as foster carers via dual approval panel for concurrency.  Necessary paperwork is to be completed by the adoption social worker following selection of suitable prospective adopters and before the placement can proceed. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Consideration of other children in the identified carer’s family and the impact of placement (e.g. where siblings to be placed with other birth sibling now adopted). |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carers need to be fully informed about the nature of the placement, their role as foster carers and that the court can decide an alternative plan to adoption. Specific relevant training provided by adoption service.  Adopters to then sign a declaration at this point that explicitly states their understanding of their responsibilities as foster carers and of the risks associated with FfA. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evidence of the carer having understanding of both the fostering and adoption role? Joint visit by LA social worker and adoption team workers.  This will be done at the point of the plan being progressed. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Preparation of carer/s (having regard to any urgency of the placement)? Are the social workers confident that the carers fully understand the task of taking a child under FfA? |  |  |  |  |  |
| All necessary training has been completed. This will be done at the point of the plan being progressed |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | | |
| **PLANNING FOR AFTER PLACEMENT** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** | **Comment** | **Any relevant date** |
| Appropriate support and visits by child’s social worker and the adoption social worker. This will be done at the point of the plan being progressed. |  |  |  |  |  |
| LAC review for single plan of adoption |  |  |  |  |  |
| Placement is under fostering regulations:  Need to continue process of:   * adoption medical * BID (best interest decision) * ADM * placement order |  |  |  |  |  |
| After placement order obtained, attend matching panel to consider “suitability of the match” (s.33 Adoption Agency Regulations 2005). |  |  |  |  |  |

**Decision of the chair:**

**Signature of the chair:**