

## Early Permanence

### Roles and Responsibilities of Temporary Approved Foster carers in Foster for Adopt arrangements

#### Placement with Adopt South West Adopters

The foster carers (prospective adopters) are approved adopters for Adopt South West (ASW). To facilitate Early Permanence, they can become approved as temporary foster carers for a specific child (Regulation 25(a) Care Planning, Placement and Case Review England Regulations 2010). (Reg 22(c) Children Act 1989 amended Children and Families Act 2014).

The nominated officer/ agency decision maker of the child's Local Authority (LA) is required to agree any Foster for Adoption arrangement to facilitate a child moving on through Early Permanence.

Formally the carers are temporarily approved foster carers for that LA, therefore have a duty to provide detailed information and learning around the role and responsibility of foster carers in line with the fostering regulations.

#### Roles and Responsibilities:

##### The Fostering Service

The LA fostering service have a duty towards the temporary approved foster carers and must guide the carers on the LA expectations of foster care, their processes, documents and payments etc. in line with the Fostering regulations 2011.

It is noted that the temporary approved foster carers will receive fostering allowances according to each LA's policy. Under the fostering for adoption arrangement they are not eligible for any additional fostering fee, as their primary approval is as adopters. As such they will therefore not be entitled to any transitional payment once the placement becomes an adoptive arrangement.

A record for the temporary approved foster carers should be set up on the fostering LA system upon notification that the ADM has signed off temporary approval. The record of this will be a Reg 25 (a) report.

All temporary approved foster carers will be allocated a named **link fostering social worker** from the individual local authority.

The **link fostering social worker** will complete:

- the Foster Carer agreement, inclusive of outline the expectations for completing training, and any other relevant agency paperwork regarding the foster to adopt carers role (see appendix 1 Practice expectations for outline of training expectations)
- Relevant Foster carer handbook
- Safer Care agreements/plans

This should be completed prior to the transitions meeting and held on the LA fostering record for the temporary approved foster carers and a copy should be sent to the ASW social worker for the ASW Eclipse record.



The **link fostering social worker** will maintain monthly contact with the ASW social worker to remain updated about the placement.

The **ASW social worker** will undertake the monitoring and supervision of the foster to adopt carers on behalf of the fostering service. The supervision visits are required every 4 weeks in the first year. The **LA fostering agency** is responsible to set and agree any change to this schedule with **ASW**.

They will undertake the duties as expected in accordance with the fostering regulations of the supervision visits and ensure that any training outlined by the LA fostering service is completed/attended as required.

The regulatory supervision visits will be recorded on the ASW Eclipse record for the foster to adopt carers and forwarded onto the **link fostering social worker**.

The confirmation of training completion will be directed by the temporary approved foster carers to the **link fostering social worker**, or via the fostering LA notification system. **The ASW social worker** will also track training completion and record in the supervision record.

The **ASW social worker** will ensure that the temporary approved foster carers provide weekly fostering logs and remain aware of their responsibilities as temporary approved foster carers.

The fostering logs will be sent to **the child's social worker** for upload to the child's record. The fostering logs will be uploaded to the carers ASW Eclipse record.

The **ASW social worker** will be responsible to update and link in with the **link fostering social worker** following each child looked after/child in care review meeting. Also where there are significant events, changes, feedback from relevant meetings/supervision or issues arising within the temporary approved fostering placement.

The **child's social worker** is to complete all notifications and statutory duties in accordance with the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review England Regulations 2010, taking care to ensure that placement details are confidential.

The **child's social worker** remains responsible for supervising 'family time/contact' with birth family.

The **child's social worker** is responsible for setting up payment to the temporary approved foster carers according to their LA processes and subsequently once the formalisation as an adoption placement is ratified (ADM matching sign off) responsible to ensure payments are ended.

#### **Exceptional extension to placements: review of roles and responsibilities**

It is known that in exceptional circumstances the placement under the temporary fostering approval may become extended. The reasons for this can be due to court proceedings delay or crisis issues arising in foster for adopt carers personal circumstances.

The **LA fostering service and LA children service** will be responsible to follow the agreed process for Agency Decision Maker review of the temporary approved agreement/placement.



It is known that fostering regulations require additional monitoring at the 12 month point of a fostering placement, including unannounced visit and an annual fostering review. There may also be additional training requirements to consider.

The **LA fostering service** and **LA child care team** will need to consider any issues arising for the child and placement of the child where delay will be incurred. The child looked after/child in care review, should give a forum to review the roles and responsibilities of each service and identify any additional expectations/tasks to be undertaken and by whom.

The **LA fostering service** and the **link fostering social worker** will be responsible to ensure an unannounced visit to the temporary approved foster carers and to complete the annual review. Any request for this to be undertaken by **the ASW social worker** needs to be confirmed in writing to the ASW team manager with responsibility for the family.

**Placement with adopters approved by another agency.**

Where a temporary foster care approval is made with carers approved by another Adoption agency other than **ASW**, **ASW** will highlight the expectation for the Adoption agency to undertake the roles and responsibilities as set out above in this document.

In this circumstance the role of the ASW family finder will be to maintain monthly communication for a progress update of the placement in order to support the next stage to matching panel once the Placement Order has been made.

**Placing a child with unapproved adopters under Connected Persons Regulations**

If a Local Authority places a child under connected carers with unapproved adopters connected to the child, it remains the Local Authority's responsibility to provide the fostering social worker to monitor and supervise the temporary foster placement in line with fostering regulations. In the event that the carers are approved as adopters and the status changes to fostering for adoption regulations, then either of the above will be applied as appropriate.

[Fostering-for-Adoption-Good-Practice-Guide-web-Coram-Centre-for-Early-Permanence-2017-1.pdf \(earlypermanence.org.uk\)](#)

## **Appendix 1**

### **Early Permanence**

### **Roles and Responsibilities of Temporary Approved Foster carers in Foster for Adopt arrangements**

#### **Appendix 1**

#### **Practice Expectations**

#### **Temporary Approved carers (Foster for Adopt) training**

**ASW** approved adopters Stage 2 training during assessment will have included:

Brain development

Attachment, Attunement

Loss and Grief

The impact of early life experiences

The child's journey

Overview of linking & matching

Reality of children's needs

Emotional needs/behavioural needs

FASD

PACE

Therapeutic Parenting

Theraplay

Life story work

Contact

Birth parent meetings

**In addition all adopters will have undertaken a training session on Safeguarding**

Health and Safety and Pet assessments and checks will have been completed.

#### **LA Fostering Service:**

Will set up the temporary approved foster carers onto the fostering training system and provide the access in order that identified training can be completed.

Any timescale for completing training will be clearly outlined in the foster carer agreement.

The following training has been recommended by the four LA fostering services, and is to be accessible following 3 months of temporary approval :

- First aid
- Safer care

Where the temporary foster care placement is to continue beyond 12 months, as part of the annual review undertaken by the **LA link fostering social worker** any further training will be identified as requiring completion and the timescale for completion be recorded as part of the review.