**SIBLING ASSESSMENT REPORT**

I**n Respect of:**

**Reason for the Assessment**

**Information sources:**

**Chronology of observations of sibling interaction:**

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**Four key factors in assessing a sibling relationship:**

* The degree of warmth.
* The degree of conflict
* The degree of rivalry
* The degree to which one sibling dominates or nurtures the other.

**Behaviour of Children**

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| a) | Defends or protects |
| b) | Recognises sibling’s distress and offers comfort |
| c) | Accepts comfort from sibling |
| d) | Teaches or helps |
| e) | Initiates play |
| f) | Responds to overtures to play |
| g) | Openly shows affection |
| h) | Misses sibling when apart |
| i) | Resolves conflict through age-appropriate reasoning |
| j) | Annoys, irritates or teases |
| k) | Shows hostility or aggression |
| l) | Blames or attempts to get sibling in trouble |
| m) | Behaviour sabotages efforts to meet other siblings needs |

**Interactions**

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| What evidence is there of sharing: |
| Boisterous play: |
| Imaginative activities: |
| Jokes and fun: |
| Secrets: |

**Are there marked differences in them in any of the following respects:**

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| The roles they adopt: |
| Activities and Interests: |
| Behaviour: |
| Personality: |

**What evidence is there of reciprocity**

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| Pride in each other: |
| Praise and criticism: |
| Mutual help: |
| Do they model on each other: |
| Think they look alike: |
| Imitate each other: |
| Emulate the qualities they like: |
| Unite in the face of problems: |

**Other observations/views of relationship**

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| Contact supervisors: |
| Independent Reviewing Officer: |
| Foster carers: |

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| **Placement Option** | **Pros** | **Cons** |
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**Analysis**

A sibling relationship is known to be one of the longest lasting which often outlasts relationships between child and parent and indeed relationships formed in later life.

The relationship between siblings is one which changes over time whilst the children develop and reach different stages of their growth. The relationship between siblings often continues into later life when significant adult figures are no longer present and therefore in my opinion the ultimate goal should be to preserve these relationships as much as possible. That said In 2001 Lord and Borthwick in their book, ‘Together or Apart’ listed the following conditions which may, in exceptional circumstances, indicate that siblings should be placed separately:

* *Intense rivalry and jealousy, with each child totally preoccupied with, and unable to tolerate the attention their sibling(s) may be getting.*
* *Exploitation, often based on gender, e.g. boys may have been seen and see themselves as inherently superior to their sisters, with a right to dominate and exploit them.*
* *Chronic scapegoating of one child.*
* *Maintaining unhelpful alliances in a sibling group and family of origin. Sibling patterns of behaviour may be strongly entrenched and may prevent re-parenting or learning new cultural norms.*
* *Maintaining unhelpful hierarchical positions e.g. the child may be stuck in the role of victim or bully*

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| **Completed by:** |
| **Role** |  |
| **Name** |  |
| **Signed** |  | **Date** |  |

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| **Authorised by:** |
| **Role** |  |
| **Name** |  |
| **Signed** |  | **Date** |  |