

Targeted and Specialist Children and Families Services

Procedure for approving long-term fostering matches and S20 cases

1. Long-Term Fostering for children aged 10-16

1.1 Where long-term fostering has been endorsed as the plan for looked after children between the ages of 10 and 16 at their statutory review, all long-term fostering matches will be agreed by the Operation Managers for CLA, CLA Resources and the Virtual Head at the Long-Term Fostering Panel meeting (previously the Operational Managers' Approval Meeting).

1.2 Supervising social workers, in consultation with the child's social worker will be responsible for completing a short **Matching Report** which outlines the reasons why the proposed placement meets the young person's long-term needs.

1.3 This report along with the following supporting documents should be sent to the Panel Administrator three weeks before the Long-Term Fostering Panel meeting:

- a) child's care plan
- b) PEP
- c) foster carer's most recent review
- d) feedback from the young person
- e) feedback from the young person's social worker
- f) feedback from the young person's Independent Reviewing Officer
- g) feedback from the young person's parents
- h) feedback from the young person's foster carer

Feedback should be obtained by the child's social worker and can be summarised briefly at the end of the Matching Report.

1.4 The Long-Term Fostering Panel will take place quarterly on the following dates

- 16 December 2015 09:30-12:00
- 16 March 2016 09:30-12:00
- 15 June 2016 09:30-12:00
- 14 September 2016 09:30-12:00
- 14 December 2016 09:30-12:00

1.5 To book a slot for your case in this meeting please contact the Panel Administrators Colleen Redwood – Colleen.Redwood@islington.gov.uk or Helen Grout – Helen.Grout@islington.gov.uk

1.6 The supervising social worker, the child's social worker and their supervisors will attend this meeting.

- 1.7 The Panel will make a recommendation as to whether or not the proposed match is in the child or young person's interest.
- 1.8 Minutes will be taken at the meeting by a Panel Administrator

2. Long-Term Fostering for children aged under 10

- 2.1 Cases for all children under the age of 10 (previously 8) will be taken to the Adoption & Permanency Panel for a best interest decision in respect of long-term fostering. All matches for children under the age of 10 will also be taken to the Adoption & Permanency Panel.
- 2.2 In cases where there are siblings of different ages the case should be take to the Adoption & Permanency Panel, if any of the children are under the age of 10.

3. S20 cases

- 3.1 All S20 cases where a child under the age of 16 has been accommodated for nine months will be reviewed at the Long-Term Fostering Panel unless there is a permanency plan in place that has been endorsed by a panel or a plan for rehabilitation within 3 months.
- 3.2 For S20 cases the child's social worker just needs to send the care plan and PEP to the Panel Administrators 3 weeks before the Long-Term Fostering Panel.

4. Advice

- 4.1 If any further help or advice is needed please contact

Karen Gibbings, Operation Manager, Children Looked After

Tel: 020 7527 7236 or email: Karen.Gibbings@islington.gov.uk