

CONNECTED PERSONS FLOWCHART

For a child in need who may require accommodation (e.g. in pre-proceedings or where care proceedings are in progress)

Family or friends put themselves forward to be assessed to care for the child if they are unable to do so (be that as approved foster carers if child has to remain LAC, or under other legal option). Decision is made about the top two prospective carers to go forward for viability assessment.

Decision is made for child to be LAC or other plan (e.g. SGO)

Stage 1: Initial viability screening

Completed by the Child's Social Worker – this will be a desk top exercise to complete initial checks and decide if viability should move to next stage.

If this is satisfactory stage 2 must be undertaken
(Reg 24 - assessment must be completed before child is placed)

Stage 2: Referral to Family and Friends Assessment Team, Viability Assessment Visit

Referral for viability assessment is made to F P Duty. A joint home visit & assessment of the potential carers is undertaken by the fostering worker and the child's social worker. The interview is led by and the assessment form is completed by the fostering social worker with contributions from the child's SW. **If assessment is for Reg 24, it must be sent to HoS for authorisation and only then can it be allocated.**

Planned fostering assessment/SGO

Fostering Team completes full Fostering or SGO assessment to meet timescales. Fostering and SGO assessments use the same CORAM BAAF form C, Fostering assessments must meet fostering regulation standards.)

If a Fostering assessment, this is presented to the Foster Panel for recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker, before child is placed.

Emergency Placement (Reg 24)

In an emergency a child may become LAC and is placed with the carers under Regulation 24 (arrangements for the temporary approval of a connected person as a foster carer) to allow an immediate placement.

An emergency placement under Regulation 24 can only go ahead following agreement from the Head of Service (MASS, Safeguarding, LAC, Children's Resources) A Regulation 24 placement must not exceed 16 weeks.

