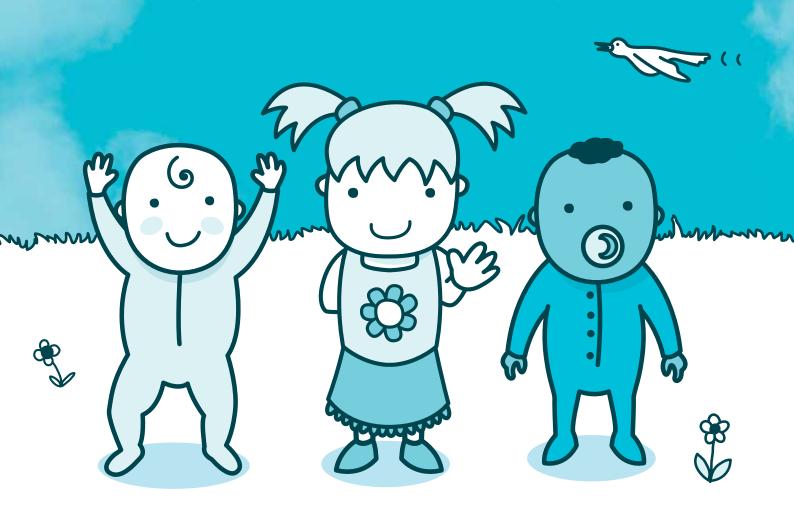


Guide for Social Work Professionals





This flowchart has been specifically designed to guide social work professionals through our Fostering for Adoption (FfA) placement process. There's a more detailed booklet available for potential adopters.

Awareness

- ★ Hand out FfA leaflets at information evenings and initial visits.
- ★ Include the FfA leaflet in adoption information packs.
- Note interested people on the ROI.

Stage 1

- ★ Identify adopters interested in FfA and provide them with the FfA leaflet.
- ★ Note interest on stage 1 report.
- ★ Include FfA information in the 3-day training.

Stage 2 Par Assessment

- ★ Fully explore FfA with adopters and assess their suitability.
- ★ Detailed FfA leaflet to be provided.
- ★ The 1-day, stage 2 training to mention FfA.
- ★ Adoption and/or fostering supervising social worker to provide input or training about the foster care aspect of the FfA (as numbers are likely to be low, this may need to be delivered individually or through collaborative seminars 3 or 4 times a year).
- ★ Second time adopters (a sibling already placed) will need to be approved for a subsequent child if required, an addendum to their PAR and some training or insight into the role of a foster carer.

Adoption Panel

- ★ Adopters approved with agreement they can participate in FfA.
- ★ Panel recommendation of approval goes to the Agency Decision Maker.

Child Identfied

- ★ If the LA plan for a child is adoption, FfA can also be considered.
- ★ The child's social worker should incorporate the FfA option into the on-going care plan.

Gateway Panel/Legal Care Planning Meeting

- Adoption and fostering teams will be alerted by the Gateway Panel, LCP meeting or FTA addendum.
- ★ Gateway Panel or LCP meeting recommends care planning towards FfA/adoption.
- ★ If thresholds are met, the first sections of the addendum should be filled out by the child's social worker or information passed to the adoption worker to complete.
- Care planning continues towards adoption.

Link/Match

- ★ The home of the potential adopters to be visited by the child's social worker, adoption workers (family finder and/or assessing social worker) and ideally a fostering supervising social worker.
- ★ Known information shared with prospective adopters.
- ★ Tentative first link/match agreed.
- ★ Care planning continues towards adoption.
- ★ Social workers report back to their managers who agree the link/match and keep a written record of this decision
- ★ Further meeting with the addendum to PAR being completed by the adopters, fostering supervising social worker and family finder or adoption social worker (done in conjunction with PAR this is child specific and addresses the role/expectations about being a temporary foster carer).
- ★ At this point, or soon after, the fostering supervising social worker should complete agency paperwork ranging from the foster care role to supervision and foster care agreements (including safer care policy, recording policy, delegated authority, expectations about training and more).
- ★ The PAR plus addendum, the note of the decision by managers and other relevant documents should then be passed to the Director of Children's Services (DCS) for the child's agency to approve the prospective adopters as child specific temporary foster carers until a placement order is made by Court. (No need for it to go to Fostering panel).

Child Placed

- Placement support commences under Reg 25 A and will be more like a family/friends placement in terms of speed and expectations.
- ★ Adopters participate in expected activities such as attending meetings, appointments and medicals.
- ★ A key support need should be met by advising and assisting with birth family contact or managing any on-going uncertainty.
- ★ The child's social worker and fostering supervising social worker to visit the home during week one.
- ★ Along with the adoption worker, the child's social worker and fostering supervising social worker should agree a schedule of visits depending on needs, expectations and practices until the first LAC review.

LAC Review

- ★ This should happen after 4 weeks.
- ★ On-going support for adopters and the child to be agreed in line with needs and agency policy/expectations (this should include supervision visits by the fostering supervising social worker as well as 'support' visits by the child's social worker/adoption workers).
- ★ The adoption/fostering team should make relevant training available to adopters to assist with the FfA placement.
- ★ Fostering processes and LAC process continue 'as usual'.
- ★ On-going care planning.

Adoption Panel

- ★ Usual paperwork for matching to be compiled and presented to Panel.
- ★ Panel make a recommendation re the match.
- ★ Matching is confirmed and a decision letter from the panel formally notes the end of foster care status.
- ★ The fostering supervising social worker records that foster care status 'lapses'.
- ★ The adoption social worker and child's social worker visit 'as usual'.

SHOPBA

- ★ 'Should be placed for adoption' decision taken with usual paperwork plus addendum to PAR (this can happen earlier depending on how far the child's social worker is up to with the care planning).
- On-going care planning by the child's social worker.
- ★ If a placement order or other order is made at the final hearing, proceed to the adoption panel. If a placement order isn't made the child will need to move.

LAC Review

- ★ Application for adoption order (Section 42 of the ACA 2005) says that if the child was placed for adoption with the applicant or applicants by an adoption agency the child must have lived with them at all times for 10 weeks before the application.
- ★ In the case of an FfA placement, the adoption application can be made as soon as practical after placement order (as long as the 10 week residence requirement is met).

For more information visit



four4 adoption.co.uk







