**INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKER (Form F Assessor)**

The Independent Social Worker is responsible for:

* Independent work as requested by The Fostering Team
* Undertaking investigation of complaints/allegations requiring independence
* Completion of all parts of a full Coram BAAF Form F Assessment on prospective foster carers

The ISW will hold qualifications either:

* CQSW
* DipSW or BA in Social Work

The ISW will have knowledge and experience of working with Looked After Children *or* experience of working within a fostering service; knowledge of childcare legislation particularly care planning and safeguarding; knowledge and experience of working with children/young people and working in groups.

Knowledge of Ofsted, National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services and

Fostering Services Regulations

Excellent communication and administrative skills

Registration with Social Work England

During a Form F Assessment there will be no less than six home visits and each visit should be on average 2 hours long. The ISW will:

* Make contact with applicant within 3 days of allocation.
* Set up appointments with applicant/s, and ensure visits are carried out on time.
* Support applicant/s to complete DBS forms at first visit.
* Meet with prospective carers.
* See joint applicants separately on at least one occasion.
* See applicants’ own children individually and depending on age. It is important to evaluate their understanding of the need for self-protection.
* Visit adult children living away from home.
* Visit ex-partners of applicants and only in exceptional circumstances in discussion with the agency agree to not undertake such contact-related to safeguarding issues.
* Interview any other adult member of the household or significant adult who is likely to be involved in caring for any children placed.
* Contact the agency re DBS/references/LA/medical/s reference DBS guidance.
* Visit three referees planned during the assessment process to inform and evaluate the validity of information obtained throughout the assessment process.
* Make arrangements to visit the applicants’ Local Authority to read their file, if applicable
* Read an adoption file if applicable.
* Ensure full details of previous fostering experience are discussed and evaluated in depth, and include case studies of children.
* If applicants have not had previous fostering experience, their previous experience of children needs to be discussed and evaluated alongside their understanding of the fostering task.
* Provide a critical evaluation and analysis of strengths and weaknesses in terms of parenting capacity.
* If the applicant’s interest includes long-term fostering, this should be fully explored and evidenced in terms of understanding..
* Make recommendations regarding children to be placed should be specific in terms of age and number. The recommendation will have been decided in advance in include reason for this recommendation, which should be assessed in relation to their previous fostering or related experience. Matching considerations should be evaluated thoroughly.
* It is also important to evaluate applicants’ understanding/attitude to contact with birth family.

All information given should be critically analysed. The social work assessment is an important summary of your assessment, it should therefore be in depth, with clear reasons given for the recommendations you are making.

Chronology should include months and years

Health & Safety checklist and Safer Caring to be completed with the applicant/s

Complete the Form F.

During the assessment process there will be mid-point supervision as a minimum. We offer ongoing assistance and support throughout the process. The Form F must be signed by the applicants prior to attendance at Fostering Panel.

**The Fostering Team -Timeline of Form** F

The completed signed Form F will be passed to the designated Manager within 3 months and 4 weeks before Fostering Panel date. All handwritten notes should be passed to the agency at the point of the Form F being presented at Fostering Panel.

The Independent Social Worker (Form F Assessor) is responsible for the completion ofall sections of a full British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF) Form F

Assessment on prospective foster carers and present this at The Fostering Team Panel

The fee for this piece of work is set by the agency and is stated below under Schedule of Fees.

The postholder will be expected to have regular contact with their supervisor at the agency during the assessment whereby appropriate consultation will be provided – either by telephone or in person. A mid-point supervision will be undertaken as a minimum.

The Fostering Team work hard to maintain high standards and all Form Fs should be completed to a professional standard and any recommendations made by the Fostering Panel, on any additional information required, should form part of this work. This will be an expectation prior to payment.

**Schedule of fees**

F Form Assessment - £2000 for completing Full Assessment

Mileage 35p mile

An hourly rate of £25 per hour rate is paid when it has been decided by the agency that the assessment will conclude prior to presentation at Fostering Panel. Any such decision to conclude the assessment should take place within the initial early stages of the allocation of the assessment unless further details unknown come to light during the assessment period.

April 2023