

**Q5 - 5.8 and 5.13 Current Practice
Gatekeeping process and training as of January 2022**

Applicant(s) enquires to become a foster carer and an initial referral is undertaken with a face to face meeting arranged to take place in their home with any other partner who will also be applying (if a joint application) exceptions may be if they work offshore but a joint meeting will always take place before proceeding.

Within the Initial Interview there are a number of gatekeeping questions including

- Who else is in the house?
- Current lifestyle
- Support network
- Explanation of process including that we will undertake full medicals, PVG checks, Local Authority Checks, Social Media Checks, References including school, health visitor if there are children, previous partners if there are children to that partner and from employers if you work with a vulnerable group. We will also require chronologies from birth of all addresses, school, employment, and significant events.

There is then a discussion with the Manager on the next steps. If any concerns are highlighted, we may choose to undertake checks before proceeding such as PVG's, references or medicals.

If proceeding they will be invited on to the Skills to Foster Preparation Group – this is mandatory and must be completed before approval. The Skill to Foster Course used is the standardised course from The Fostering Network.

Alongside this all applicants must complete a Workbook and provide the name of their references who will be contacted and asked to provide a written reference prior to their application being accepted. On being allocated an assessing worker the applicants will work alongside them to complete a Coram BAAF Form F which has been used by Aberdeen City Council for the duration of its license. As part of this assessment checks will be undertaken in line with Undertaking Checks and References in Fostering and Adoption Assessments 2012, Good Practice Guide.

Alongside undertaking the assessment all applicants must complete the pre-approval mandatory training:

- Safer Caring (which must be updated every 3 years)
- Child Protection
- First Aid
- Life Story Work
- Internet Safety
- Theraplay
- Record and Report Writing
- Adult Protection (if caring for 16+)

Once approved carers also have to undertake:

- Trauma Informed Care
- Loss and Bereavement
- Attachment
- Child Development
- Diversity and Difference
- Transitions
- Continuing Care

During the assessment all checks will be undertaken, and any concerns raised with the applicant. If it is felt that concerns raised will question the applicant's ability to keep a child safe or not provide a nurturing home, then the applicant will be counselled out.

If proceeding the Form F will be completed and QA'd by the assessing workers manager. A second opinion visit will also be undertaken by the manager of the team the applicant will be transferring too. This information alongside the checks and completed Form F will be submitted to the Alternative

Family Care Panel and be presented to the sitting Panel. The assessing worker and applicants will be present while this is being considered with questions being asked of all parties.

The Alternative Family Care Panel will make a recommendation which the assessing worker and applicant will be aware of and this is then passed to the Agency Decision Maker who will have the final say on whether the applicant will be approved. If the applicant disagrees with the outcome, they will have the right to an appeal.

At any point, however, in this process if concerning information is shared, we can inform applicants that we are not progressing. This includes when we are not in a position to share the exact reason why. This has happened when information has been shared by someone who does not wish this to be further shared with the applicants and is of such concern and often in line with concerns already raised.

CURRENT POLICY AND PRACTICE DOCUMENTS

ACC herewith submit evidence of current practice to the Inquiry see Q5 - 5.8 + 5.13 ACC Annex C > Tab 4:

- 01 Form F Pre-Approval Assessment
- 02 Foster Carer Chronology
- 03 Foster Carer CPD Portfolio 2022
- 04 Foster Carer Handbook
- 05 Prospective Foster Carer's Homework Book
- 06 Referral and Initial Interview Form
- 07 Schedule 3- Placement Enquiry Form
- 08 AFC Training Calendar January - June 2022