

ROLE OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) IN ADOPTION PLANNING

The IRO should be informed of the plans and any significant issues throughout this process by being invited to matching and pre- APnel meetings. The Adoption Placement Planning and subsequent Adoption Placement Planning Review meetings will ensure all relevant decision making is considered including provisional of necessary documentation and notifications etc.

The IRO should be informed by the Social Worker of the date the child has moved.

The IRO will Chair the first Looked After Review within 1 month of the child moving into the adoptive placement. This will include seeking the views of the former foster carers. The Strengthening Families worker must be invited to all reviews. This review will consider who will undertake statutory social work visits and how frequent they will be (must be a minimum of 6 weekly). The IRO will agree a date for the 2nd Looked After Review (before the 10 week point so the application to adopt can be discussed)

The IRO will continue to Chair Looked After Reviews at a minimum frequency of 6 monthly until the adoption order is made.

The Adoption application is expected to be made at ten weeks unless agreed otherwise and this will be taken into account at the child's review. An application will not be delayed by review dates if it is agreed as in the child's interests to progress this. If a further review is needed prior to the ten week point, this will take place. We need to be clear that support is available post order as defined in the adoption support plan.