

## **The Role of the Adopter's Social Worker in Introductions**

### **General Points**

- Draft plan for introductions need to have been formulated and discussed with all parties (adopters and foster carers) prior to the Adoption Placement Planning meeting.
- A draft plan should be provided to the prospective adopters along with the draft of the APP 10 working days before the planned Adoption Planning meeting
- The dates for the APP and a review should be provisionally arranged at the pre Panel meeting
- All introductions must have a Review meeting.
- All Introductions should include at least ONE rest day – no exemptions.
- The prospective adopters can have an initial visit with the child prior to the APP meeting if there has not been a chemistry meeting. This must be facilitated by a SW. Ideally this would be the role of the child's SW however it is accepted that in some cases it may be more appropriate for the adoption or fostering supervising SW to facilitate this
- The initial visit should only be a short meeting ( max of a hour)
- The initial visit should only be the adopters – if they have existing children in the family then they should be introduced at a later date. Other foster children in the placement should not be present either at this meeting.
- APP meetings and review meetings should be held in an office or on Teams and not the foster carers home.
- The Review meeting should be held before the introductions transfer over to the adopters home.
- Professionals must be present at the APP and review meetings – we can't have adopters and foster carers in these meetings without support.
- Adoption Placement Planning meetings will not be delayed due to Chair availability, a chair will be made available.

### **Role of Adopters Social Worker in Introductions**

- Need to be present at APP and Review meetings to support adopters and contribute to discussions/planning
- Any issues arising about the adopters within the introduction process should be addressed with the adopters by their worker
- Any issues that adopters have within the introduction process should be passed to the adoption SW who will then address with the relevant professional.
- Adoption SW needs to ensure that the couple understand the introduction process and what this involves and their role within it and that this may also include other family members
- Adoption SW to offer support and guidance to adopters to prepare an age appropriate Welcome Book for a child prior to introductions commencing.
- Adoption SW to arrange the update of the H and S check of the home before the child visits, and ensure that any practical equipment they have purchased/

acquired is suitable. This to be completed before the child is placed with the adopters.

- Adoption SW has a responsibility to maintain a good level of direct and indirect contact with the adopters in the introduction period – and need to consider with couples how this includes contact is with both applicants. The level of contact to be provided needs to be considered and will include face to face as well as telephone support.
- Adoption SW will provide adopters with a matching certificate.
- Adopters SW will ensure that delegation of PR is understood by adopters.
- Adopters SW will ensure that adopters are supported to apply for Child benefit and provide a covering letter to protect anonymity when they do apply for this.