Family and friends (kinship) care self-assessment questionnaire

**Draft operational document**

**Personal considerations:**

* Am I doing this on my own or with my partner? If jointly is our relationship stable enough?
* Am I prepared to attend any training I might need to parent the child effectively?
* How do I feel about the other side of the child’s family (mum’s or dad’s side)? Can I ensure they are part of the child’s life?
* Does the child have certain cultural and/or religious needs and could I ensure these needs are met?
* Do I have the patience and skills to care for a child who may have additional behavioural and/or emotional needs?
* I may have to supervise the contact of parent(s) until the child is 18. Could I do this?
* Do I have the ability to fully commit myself to the care of the child?
* How will other family members view my decision to care for the child? Will this cause rifts in the family?
* How would the child feel about me becoming their main carer?
* The parent(s) may only be allowed supervised contact. Can I stop seeing the parent to make sure the children are safe?
* What support do I have around me to make this work?
* Can I put the needs of the child before my relationship with the parents?
* Whatever my views of the parents, can I ensure I am positive about them to the child?
* How well do I know the child? What is the quality of the relationship I have with them?
* Is my health good enough to be able to bring up a child?

**Practical considerations**

* Am I prepared to work with professionals involved with the child and attend relevant meetings?
* Very young children will require a secure settling in period, am I prepared to take time off work for several months to make this work?
* Do I have enough room in my house? Would I need a larger home?
* Do I currently have children? How would they be affected if I take on the care of another child?
* Am I planning to start a family of my own or undergoing fertility treatment?
* Can I put my plans on hold for a significant period of time?
* Are my family members and regular visitors to my home happy to have checks carried out on them e.g. police checks?
* What kind of support, including financial support, will I need from Camden to be able to care for the child well?