



## **CSFH Family, Friends and Fostering service and the London North Regional Adoption Agency – agreed responsibilities**

The London North Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) now shares responsibility for adoption in Camden with CSFH. Each agency has the following responsibilities for each of the steps as set out below.

### **Recruiting, assessing and approving prospective adopters**

The RAA is responsible for all aspects of this work. Camden residents interested in adoption will be referred on to the RAA or they can contact the RAA directly.

### **Making a decision on adoption as a child's permanence plan**

These steps are taken by CSFH:

- CLA social workers are responsible for identifying when adoption is a suitable permanence plan for the child.
- The Family, Friends and Fostering service will provide advice to social workers via the Permanence Clinic on adoption as a permanence option.
- The CLA review will agree adoption as the permanence plan by the 2<sup>nd</sup> CLA review.
- The CLA social worker will gather information to prepare the CPR and carry out statutory work with children and birth parents to prepare them for adoption.
- The CSFH Director, as Agency Decision Maker, will make a decision on adoption in best interests for the child based on the information provided in the CPR.

***Once authorisation for the child to be adopted has been obtained, or the case has been discussed at a Permanence Planning Clinic, the social worker will refer the case to the RAA.***

### **Family finding and matching**

This step is carried out jointly by CLA social workers and the RAA family finder.

- The RAA family will work with the CLA social worker to identify and match the child with a suitable adopter via family finding meetings.
- These meetings will also consider arrangements for placing the child with the prospective adopter and what adoption support will be needed.

- The RAA worker will prepare the adoption placement report, adoption placement plan and adoption support plan.

### **Authorising the adoptive placement**

Once a match has been found,

- CSFH will obtain legal authorisation to place the child with the adoptive parents. The CLA social worker will either:
  - take steps to obtain parental consent for placement **or**
  - make an application for a placement order.
- The RAA worker will take steps to have the match approved and will arrange for the case to be presented to the RAA Panel for a recommendation that the child be placed with the adoptive parents. The adoption placement plan and support plan will also be considered.
- The RAA worker will then refer the case to the CSFH Director for approval of the Panel recommendations.

### **Placement and review**

Once legal authorisation has been obtained and the Director has authorised the placement:

- Placement of the child and review of the placement up to the making of the Adoption Order will be shared between the RAA worker and the CLA social worker.
- Both workers will be involved in carrying out arrangements to introduce and place the child with the adoptive parents.
- The RAA adoption support worker will work with adoptive parents to implement the adoption support plan.
- The RAA worker will visit the placement regularly to support the adoptive parents.
- The CLA social worker will visit the placement regularly to support the child and safeguard their welfare.
- The placement will be reviewed under care planning regulations and Adoption Agency regulations by the RAA and CSFH.
- The RAA worker will support the adoptive parents to make the application for a court order.
- The RAA worker or the adopter's agency social worker will, together with the CLA social worker, complete the Annex A for the adoption order application.