

Information Sharing Protocol for Proposed Adoption Placements – Adoption Tees Valley; Tees Valley and Darlington Children’s Services; Adoption Agencies

OVERVIEW OF INFORMATION SHARING			
Who is to share Information	With whom is it to be shared	What Information to be Shared	Why is it shared- purpose
CHILD BECOMES LOOKED AFTER, or is an UNBORN with a plan to become LOOKED AFTER at birth Local Authority “considering adoption for a child” – Pre Agency Decision that Adoption is in the Child’s Best Interests (BID), and/or with ADM for BID, pre- Placement Order (PO)			
Local Authority Children’s Services (Social Worker for the Child for whom the LA is considering adoption) Authorised via Legal Planning Meeting and/or Care Planning Meeting	Adoption Tees Valley, the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA)	• Notice that the local authority may be “considering adoption” for a child, including identification of early permanence - Early Notification (EN) • Consideration as to whether early permanence is appropriate - Identified within EN form • Sharing of background information as to the child, including: - All material facts as to the child, including details of birth parents, siblings, and placement type of any siblings - History of abuse/neglect/sexualised behaviour - History in care - Information around physical, emotional and mental health and development - Ethnicity/religion • Child Permanence Report (CPR), where available	• To enable ATV to work as a shared service and in partnership with the Local Authority to initiate family finding at the earliest point, where adoption is likely to be the plan. • To enable ATV to commence family finding. • To enable ATV to identify whether there are available prospective adopters for the child who may be suitable to be matched to the child. • To enable planning for internal (ATV) family finding, or external (wider regional and national Adoption Agency) family finding

		• Health report • Photograph(s) of Child	
ATV	Potential ATV Approved Prospective Adoptive families, or Stage 2 Prospective Adoptive Families	• Anonymised background details of the child, including: - History in Care - Anonymised details of siblings and any contact arrangements - History of abuse/neglect/sexualised behaviour - Information around physical, emotional and mental health and development - Ethnicity/ religion • Child's "Profile" Anonymised • No photograph unless specifically authorised by Court • Consideration should be given to sharing of child's photograph and name where the LA makes its BID (ADM), and a likely link is being considered. • Where Final Hearing is approached, and the LA Care Plan is adoption, sharing of anonymised CPR, sensitive birth parental details redacted; Child's health report, where the ATV has identified a suitable adoptive parent, and the LA Child's Social Worker is in agreement with that proposed placement, pending outcome of the Court Judgement on the Care Plan.	• To enable ATV to share details of the child, with a view to seeking suitable families who have a realistic wish to consider placement of the child. • To enable the prospective adopters to make an informed decision as to whether to consider the placement of the child, and as to whether they can meet the child's needs in full. • Where ATV and the LA have identified the prospective adoptive family/match to be proposed following PO, information is shared to enable the prospective adoptive parents to be fully informed on the Child, his/her needs and care plan, and to make an informed decision that they can meet the child's needs in full. • To enable timely matching and placement, without delay.

ATV	Relevant Adoption Agencies	• Anonymised background details of the child, including: - History in Care - Anonymised details of siblings and any contact arrangements - History of abuse/neglect/sexualised behaviour - Information around physical, emotional and mental health and development - Ethnicity • Child's "Profile" Anonymised	• Early family finding where ATV identifies no internal ATV suitable prospective family will be available in a timescale for the child's plan and needs
Local Authority	Parents	• The Care Plan • The proposed placement plan, including nature of the placement • Anonymised details of the proposed adoptive parents, including family composition	• To obtain parents views on the plan, and proposed placement • To enable parents to share full information about the child, their background, history and needs for the future welfare and identity needs of the child • To obtain consent on the proposed plan and placement where possible • To enable consideration of any objection to the plan by parents
PLACEMENT ORDER MADE, in respect of the child			
ATV	Adoption Agencies, Regional and National, including via Linkmaker	• Child's "Profile" • Child's photograph • Information shared is increased as prospective families identified • CPR where prospective family identified • Child's health report	• To enable family finding for the child, for adopters who can meet the child's assessed needs, and care plan for permanence. • Where a family is selected, full information sharing to enable that family to make an informed decision about whether they are able to meet the full needs of the child.

EARLY PERMANENCE PLACEMENT CONSIDERATION VIA FOSTERING FOR ADOPTION (Regulation 25 (a) CPPCR Regs) OR WITH CONNECTED CARERS (Regulation 24 CPPCR Regs)

“These circumstances apply where the Local Authority is considering adoption for a child and the child is placed with foster carers who are subject to regulatory approval as either fostering-for-adoption foster carers under Regulation 25 CPPCR or connected persons foster cares under Regulation 24 CPPCR (e.g. where they are the adoptive parents of an elder biological sibling of the child).”

Local Authority	• Parents • Foster carers, proposed to be the adoptive parents • Connected Carers, proposed to be the adoptive parents • IRO	• The Placement Plan • Background details of the child, including: - History in Care - Anonymised details of siblings and any contact arrangements - History of abuse/neglect/sexualised behaviour - Information around physical, emotional and mental health and development - Ethnicity • Child’s “Profile” Anonymised • No photograph unless specifically authorised by Court • Sharing of child’s photograph and name where the LA proposes to place the child with the selected family. • Full background details, history and needs to be shared, prior to placement, where the family is identified and agreed to be the proposed placement for the child, and is to be authorised by the LA ADM.	• To enable the parents to understand the proposed plan for the child, and the nature of the proposed placement • To enable the carers to meet the child’s day to day needs, and to fulfil the initial care plan, including contact arrangements • To enable the carers to consider the full needs and history of the child, prior to placement, as far as is known, in order to make an informed decision as to whether they wish to consider the placement, as a proposed adoption placement.
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