

Post Title: Fostering Panel Chair

Service Area: FARY

Team: Lancashire Fostering Service

Main Purpose of the Job:

To chair the fostering panel of the Lancashire fostering service with a view to enabling professionally sound and procedurally correct recommendations concerning foster carers.

To work with the fostering service management team to ensure effective quality assurance and the avoidance of delay.

To attend quarterly quality assurance meetings with the Lancashire fostering management team.

To offer and participate in consultation regarding service delivery and the development of Lancashire fostering team.

To maintain oversight of panel items with a view to ensuring high standards of practice and adherence to regulatory timescales.

Job activities: Summary of Responsibilities and Key Areas:

1. To contribute to the development and implementation of the Lancashire fostering service panel process, promoting, and embracing new and innovative methods of practice with a view to reducing timescales and achieving improved outcomes for our children.
2. To act as a representative of the Lancashire Fostering service in modelling and promoting professional standards of conduct and behaviour to staff, professionals, and foster carers.
3. To act as chair of the fostering panel. To be available to chair meetings of the panel flexibly, whether virtual or in different locations across the region at the frequency required by Lancashire Fostering services.
4. To read all panel papers carefully and critically and challenge quality and content where appropriate.
5. To take part in the interviewing of prospective panel members and advise the Agency on appointment to the panels.
6. To bring to the attention of the management team situations in which panel members are not meeting the requirements of the role.
7. To ensure that the panel operates effectively in appropriately challenging social work assessments and recommendations relating to foster carers.
8. To ensure that the panel operates within the relevant law, regulations, and guidance for fostering.



9. To ensure that the panel operates within the Policies of Lancashire Fostering services and related procedures as they become available.

10. To facilitate the involvement of panel members, social workers, applicants, children and young people and birth family members in accordance with best practice and the Policies of Lancashire Fostering service.

11. To ensure that the panel addresses all relevant procedural and practice issues in relation to the main categories of panel items and whether applicants are suitable to foster.

12. To work effectively in conjunction with staff undertaking panel administration in ensuring smooth and effective business processes.

13. To ensure that the panel addresses all relevant procedural and practice issues in relation to other matters before the panel.

14. To facilitate the panels in their role of monitoring the quality of work presented to the panel.

15. To bring to the attention of Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool significant practice and procedural issues which arise in individual cases and in general.

16. To keep abreast of current practice issues in adoption and seek to promote best practice within the panel and the agency.

17. To assist the Agency to identify training needs within the panels and more widely and to attend and contribute to and participate in panel training / development days.

18. To prepare together with the panel adviser 6 monthly report for senior management of Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool.

19. To be a qualified social worker registered with Social Work England

20. The duties of the post could vary from time to time because of new legislation, regulatory guidelines or policies.

