**Flow chart for temporary approval as foster carers (Connected People)**

Connected person/s identified at a family meeting or via family group conference (in exceptional circumstances they may be identified within the court process)

Decision is made by the child’s social work Practice/Principal Manager which family members are to be assessed

Child’s social worker arranges a joint visit to the potential connected person/s with a fostering social worker - who will discuss the options available with the potential connected person/s and will be able to answer any queries re fostering and advise the child’s social worker of any potential issues emerging from the visit

Suitability assessment completed by the child social worker – should include DBS completed with immediate police check; medical information and Local authority checks. The prompts in grey text are in relation to the ‘matters to be taken into account’ cutting and pasting from another document must be contextualised to meet the assessment requirement

Assessment is read and quality assured by the Principal/Practice Manager who will determine the decision on which route is appropriate for the assessment to follow and advise on gaps in assessment.

Assessment is sent to Principal/Practice Manager in fostering to provide fostering comment – this is a comment in relation to ‘matters to be taken into account’ and whether there are any specific issues that might preclude the potential connected person/s from approval as foster carers

Full Family and friend’s assessments required (SGO’s where the child is open to the child care team are not undertaken by fostering) – if this pertains to an existing foster carer fostering provide carer’s information only

Immediate approval required to enable a child to be placed

Assessment with the fostering comment is sent to the Divisional Manager for agreement to commence assessment – this is a referral to the fostering service for assessment.\*\* The potential family and friends carers at this point are not temporarily approved - no child can be placed until the fostering assessment has been approved by the Agency Decision Maker following fostering panel’s recommendation

\*\* If the outcome is for an CAO/SGO to be completed this is also the Divisional Managers agreement for the CAO/SGO assessment to commence by the children’s social work team

Assessment with the fostering comment is sent to the Divisional Manager to forward to Operational Director /Agency Decision Maker – approval is only given if the outcome is to be foster carers. This then forms the referral to fostering for assessment within 16 weeks – the court includes the time taken for the suitability assessment. The assessment is then presented to panel and flows the usual approval route