**Guidance – Foster Carer Profile**

* The profile should read as a narrative/story rather than appearing to be responses to a questionnaire
* The profile must not contain the carer’s full address
* The profile must not have any information that would make any other child identifiable, except their first name
* The profile must be orientated to a child within the carer’s age range
* When the carer’s age range is wide, the information should be aimed towards the middle of the age group
* Written content must be in plain English, using age-appropriate and concise language
* The profile must help the child to feel welcome and give a sense of what a child will experience on arrival
* The profile must provide a sense of what family life is like within the household
* The profile must be clear about specific expectations, but not contain a list of rules that might make the child feel nervous or apprehensive
* Photos and a description of the physical space need to give a child an immediate sense of the physical environment
* There should be an exterior photo of the house (if  a photo of the front of the house would make the address identifiable, then  a photo from or of the garden could be used or this should be removed)
* There should be a photo and description of any pets, including names and where appropriate temperament
* There must be a photo and description of the bedrooms used for fostering
* There must be a photo of the carers (this must not show the carer drinking alcohol)
* Foster carers must discuss with children if they are willing for their photos to be used, including the risk that this may inadvertently be circulated outside of the organisation
* Where foster carers or children do not feel comfortable with photos being used, other less distinguishable pictures could be used such as clipart, hand-drawn self-portraits, or photos where the children are in silhouette
* All other photos must be clearly lit and of a good quality
* The form must give a sense of the carers experience with children
* When printed, the form should be between 3 and 6 sides of A4 paper
* Very careful consideration must be given to relaying any information about other cared for children
* The form must indicate the date it was completed/updated