

Dear (name of Foster Carers)

The Local Authority can confirm it would support an application by you for a Special Guardianship order in relation to (name of child) and we are aware you have indicated you wish to seek such an order.

You are urged to seek independent legal advice in relation to the proposed application and enclosed with this letter is a list of local solicitors who specialise in this area of work. They are independent from the Local Authority. It will be your responsibility to seek legal advice and instruct a solicitor to progress the application for you.

The Local Authority is agreeable to funding your legal advice if you are not eligible for public funding (legal aid), initially to a limit of £800 + VAT plus the court fee which will be payable when solicitors make the application on your behalf. The Local Authority would expect your solicitors to carry out the work at 'legal aid' rates.

You should take this letter to the solicitor of your choice so that they are aware of the Local Authority position and they can then contact our legal representative, xxxxxxxxxxxxxx in legal services to make them aware of their involvement and give formal notice of your intention to apply for a SGO. This will mean the Local Authority can then begin completing the SGO assessment and report which the court will require in due course.

We are unable to recommend a solicitor for you, however, I enclose a copy of a list children's solicitors in Leicester city in case you do not have an identified solicitor.

If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact (name of allocated Social Worker and supervising Social Worker with contact details).

Yours Sincerely

Uzma Moody

Service Manager

Looked After children's Service