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| **Local Authority**  **Social Work Initial Evidence (SWIET)**  **For use in urgent hearings only** | In the Family Court sitting at |
| In the matter of the Children Act 1989 |

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| **Local Authority and Social Worker Details** | |
| Court case number |  |
| Filed by | Gateshead Local Authority |
| This author/witness’s name, qualifications and office address |  |
| This author/witness’s Social Work England registration number |  |
| I have been the allocated social worker for [insert name(s)] since [date(s)] |  |

**The facts in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and the opinions set out are my own.**

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| Signed: |  |

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| Date of Completion: |  |

1. **Order being sought from the courts and a summary of the reasons why?**

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| **No Order (indicate preferred option with ‘X’)** |  |
| **Interim Supervision Order** |  |
| **Interim Care Order** |  |
| **Other Orders Sought** |  |

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| **Reasons for an application for interim order(s):** |
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1. **The impact of harm on the child/ren (including an initial analysis of risk and protective factors)**

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1. **Initial analysis of the evidence of wider family and friends’s capabilities to meet the needs of the child/ren**

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1. **Realistic placement option(s)**

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| **The preferred and proposed placement option for [child] is [placement]** |
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1. **The range of views of other parties**

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| **5.1 Views of the child/ren** |
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| **5.2 Mother’s views (include full name and date of birth)** |
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| **5.3 Father’s views (include full name and date of birth)** |
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| **5.4 Views of wider family members (include full name and date of birth)** |
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1. **The family time / contact plan**

The family time / contact plan should seek to involve siblings and others with whom the child has a significant relationship. It must be kept under review as circumstances change.

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1. **Statement of procedural fairness**

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**APPENDIX 1: The Social Work Chronology**

* *Recognising the gravity of the situation requiring an urgent application to the court, please list the most significant events* ***which can be evidenced*** *here.*
* *Focus on the last* ***three to six months,*** *time permitting.*
* *Make reference to any significant events in the last two years or beyond felt to be of relevance here.*

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| **Date** | **Incident or sequence of incidents relevant to the child/ren’s welfare** | **Impact on the child/ren** |
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**APPENDIX 2: The Welfare Checklist in full for reference**

The full Children Act checklist to be used in care and supervision proceedings is found a section 1 (3) (a) – (g) and requires the court to have regard to the following matters:

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| (a) | The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child/children concerned (considered in the light of their age and understanding); |
| (b) | Their physical, emotional and educational needs; |
| (c) | The likely effect on them of any change in his/her/their circumstances; |
| (d) | Their age, sex, background and any characteristics of his/hers/theirs which the court considers relevant; |
| (e) | Any harm which they have suffered or are at risk of suffering; |
| (f) | How capable each of their parents, and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant, is of meeting his/her/their needs; |
| (g) | The range of powers available to the court under this Act (Children Act 1989) in the proceedings in question. |

The full Adoption and Children Act welfare checklist to be used in care proceedings where the plan is for adoption and in placement proceedings, is found in section 1 (4) (a) – (f) and requires the court and the adoption agency to have regard to the following matters (amongst others):

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| (a) | the child’s ascertainable wishes and feelings regarding the decision (considered in the light of the child’s age and understanding); |
| (b) | the child’s particular needs; |
| (c) | the likely effect on the child (throughout theirlife) of having ceased to be a member of the original family and become an adopted person; |
| (d) | the child’s age, sex, background and any of the child’s characteristics which the court or agency considers relevant; |
| (e) | any harm (within the meaning of the Children Act 1989 (c. 41)) which the child has suffered or is at risk of suffering; |
| (f) | the relationship which the child has with relatives, and with any other person in relation to whom the court or agency considers the relationship to be relevant, including:   1. the likelihood of any such relationship continuing and the value of the child of its doing so, 2. the ability and willingness of any of the child’s relatives, or of any such person, to provide the child with a secure environment in which the child can develop, and otherwise to meet the child’s needs, 3. the wishes and feelings of any of the child’s relatives, or of any such person, regarding the child. |