



London Borough of Hillingdon - Long Term Fostering Matching Meeting **Terms of reference**

The meeting is a London Borough of Hillingdon internal process established to promote clear decision-making and secure permanency arrangements for children who have a long term fostering care plan and are over 13 years, or there is a plan for them to live in residential care as their permanent placement.

In the initial stages, the meeting will also hear the recommendations of younger children who are securely placed with foster carers and require a ratification of their matched placement. It is anticipated that this process will be completed by July 2018.

There are no legal requirements regarding panel membership, process and quoracy, but a minimum of three managers are expected to hear all cases.

Minutes are provided by Business Support.

A Head of Service will chair each meeting with meeting membership, consisting of a Team Manager - LAC, Placements Manager and Permanency Team Manager.

Meeting Purpose

- To hear recommendations of proposed long term/permanency matches for all children and young people over 13 years old.
- To hear recommendations of proposed long term/permanency matches for children and young people under 13, who have been living in the same placement for at least 18 months, where this is considered as their long term placement and it is not necessary to secure the child's permanency through presentation to the Fostering and Adoption Panel.

Criteria

- Cases where the child has been in placement for more than a year and it is considered by all stakeholders, the IRO, CSW, the child and foster carers and where appropriate the child parents, that this is the long term placement for the child.
- To hear matches for children over 13 years of age in accordance with their care plan and assessment of the match suitability.
- To consider cases of children in residential care where this is planned for a bridging or longer term placement.

Panel Process

Prior to meeting, the following reports are shared with the meeting members:

1. Matching report completed by child's SW in partnership with the fostering SSW.
2. Child Permanence Report, presented when available.

The Meeting

Verbal presentation by the child's social worker, family finding SW, where applicable and the fostering SSW (IFA and in house).

To include:

Background summary, the child needs, how the foster carer/s are able to meet current and future needs and the reasons for the recommended match, including discussion about staying put options. Must include the views of the child, IRO, parent, foster carer and the foster care agency. The meeting will explore, through a discussion, the prospective match and make a recommendation to:

- i. Agree
- ii. Not agree
- iii. Defer

The meeting will provide advice about any outstanding reports and information needed for the carers and child.

Post Meeting

- All proposed matches will be noted on the child's record, Hillingdon foster carer records and letters given/sent to the child, the carers, their agency and birth parents.
- IRO notified.
- Care plan updated.
- IFA placements – Placement team manager will seek a cost reduction.
- LBH foster carers details will be entered on their records and fostering vacancy planner.