

## INFOGUIDE FOR PANEL

New applications to foster are considered by a panel and the applicant(s) are asked to attend

### BEFORE PANEL

To help you to prepare to attend panel, your assessor will have discussed with you the possible questions and issues that the panel may ask about you. These will be connected to your Form F Assessment, which you will have seen and signed

### WHO IS ON THE PANEL?

There will be at least 5 people on the panel, plus a panel administrator taking minutes. The members have experience and/or an interest in childcare such as social workers, foster parents, therapists, educationalists and care-experienced independent members. You will be introduced to everyone in the room

### WHAT HAPPENS AT PANEL?

The panel are given your Form F Assessment prior to the meeting and will have read it and noted any questions they have. At the meeting, panel members will discuss each case, noting in particular any positives or areas of concern. From these, they will formulate the questions they would like to ask the assessor and applicants

Once these preliminary discussions have taken place, the panel will usually invite your assessor to speak with them first. Following this, you will be invited to join the meeting and talk with the panel, answering any questions they have. Once panel have asked all the questions they have, you will be given the opportunity to ask any questions of your own. You will then be asked to leave the meeting whilst panel discuss your answers and agree on the recommendation, they will make to the agency decision maker (ADM)

You will then be invited back into the meeting and will be informed of the panel's decision either to recommend your approval or not and the reasons for this. In some circumstances, the panel may recommend deferring your application so that further information can be gathered to enable them to make a more informed recommendation.

Please note, the panel are not an approval body and although they make a recommendation as to whether to approve or not, it is the role of the ADM to make all decisions

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER PANEL?

The recommendation made by the panel is noted in the panel minutes and these, along with your Form F Assessment are forwarded to our ADM who will then consider your case, using the information available and make the decision about your approval as a foster parent