9.0 Introduction

References to kinship care within this section apply specifically to kinship care placements, made by a Trust under Article 27 of the Children Order in respect of a looked after child. Article 27(3) of the Children Order refers to a kinship carer, with whom a looked after child has been placed, as an ‘authority foster parent’. In consequence, all Regulations, which apply to either looked after children or to fostering arrangements, apply to these kinship care arrangements.

The Children Order encourages the planned placement of children with relatives or people (kinship carers) with whom they are familiar or connected as an alternative to being placed with people they do not know, provided this is consistent with promoting and safeguarding their welfare.

The Order also allows for the immediate placement of a child with a kinship carer who is not an approved foster carer, subject to the conditions outlined in Regulation 11 of The Foster Placement (Children) Regulations (NI) 1996. Such placements are intended to be used exceptionally.

All families have crises where there is a problem about short-term care of their children. Many families sort out such situations without reference to Social Services.

There may be other circumstances where family or friends seek the support of the Trust to enable them to offer or continue to offer care to a child. In these circumstances, provided the Trust has no significant concerns about the safety or welfare of the child and provided the

* The Term Kinship Foster Carer used within this section meets the definition of Relative or Friend as per the Foster Placements (Children) Regulations – (NI 1996) – i.e. Kinship Carers who are approved as Trust Foster Carers.
arrangement has the agreement of those persons with parental responsibility for the child, it is reasonable to conclude that the Trust has not been responsible for placing the child. As a consequence, the child is not considered to be a child who is ‘looked after by an authority’ (‘a looked after child’), within the meaning of Article 25 of the Children Order.

It is therefore possible for a child to be cared for on an on-going basis by family and friends, who may choose not to involve statutory authorities in those care arrangements. In these circumstances, subject to there being no safeguarding or welfare concerns and with the agreement of those with parental responsibility, families are able to so choose.

N.B. However if the arrangement exceeds 28 days AND the carer/s do not fall within the definition of ‘relative’ as set out in Article 2* of The Children (NI) Order 1995 then The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 1996 apply.

Provisions concerning the registration of childminders may also apply in certain circumstances.

Where a Trust considers the child to be a ‘child in need’ within the meaning of Article 17 of the Children Order, the Trust will have a duty to provide support to the child and/or carer under the provisions of Article 18 of the Children Order.

It should be noted that no child or young person should have to become looked after, whether by agreement with those with parental responsibility or by virtue of a court order, for the sole purpose of enabling financial, practical or other support to be provided to the child’s carer.

These Policy and Procedures apply to the following situations:

- Children voluntarily accommodated by the Trust with a kinship foster carer, including Immediate placements made by the Trust with a kinship carer. A Trust does not have parental responsibility for a child whom it accommodates under a voluntary arrangement. In such circumstances the Trust requires the consent of the parents before it can act. It cannot for example control contact arrangements or secure the placement without parental consent.
Children Looked After Placement with Kinship Foster Carers

*Article 2(2) Children NI Order 1996: Relative in relation to a child means a grandparent, sister, brother, uncle, aunt (whether of full blood or half or by marriage or civil partnership or stepparent)*

- Children subject to an Emergency Protection Order or an Interim or full Care Order and placed by the Trust with a kinship carer. Under these Orders, a Trust shares parental responsibility for the child with the child’s parents. A Trust is empowered to decide to what extent the parent(s) exercise their parental responsibility and has the right to decide where and with whom the child resides.

Subsequent Looked After Children (LAC) Reviews should examine carefully the longer-term/permanency plans for the child, with the following outcomes in mind:

- Rehabilitation to their parent or person with parental responsibility;

- Longer-term/permanency placement with the current or alternative kinship carer for example Residence Order or Adoption;

- A placement with different foster carers to meet the needs of the particular child;

- An alternative placement e.g. residential care.

The Child's needs are paramount and should at all times be reflected in decisions made. *Children should be consulted and their views and wishes considered and recorded as part of the decision making process.*

9.1 **Parental Responsibility/ Residence Orders**

Where a child is living with a kinship carer as a result of private arrangements, the kinship carer may apply to the Court for an Article 8 Residence Order in respect of the child. A Residence Order decides who the child will live with.

If no such Order exists, parental responsibility remains with the child’s parent. If such an Order does exist, the child’s parent and the person holding the Residence Order share parental responsibility.
If a child is accommodated with a kinship foster carer by the Trust, the Trust does not acquire parental responsibility for the child. Parental responsibility remains with the parent but the Trust will negotiate with the parent the day-to-day arrangements for the child’s care. This will be recorded on the Placement Plan.

If a child in Care is placed by the Trust with a kinship foster carer, parental responsibility is shared between the Trust and the child’s parent. †Arrangements for the child’s day-to-day care will be agreed with the parent as far as possible, taking into account the welfare of the child. This will be recorded on the Placement Plan.

If a kinship foster carer with the support of the Trust seeks and is granted an Article 8 Residence Order in respect of a child placed with them by the Trust, whether voluntarily accommodated or subject to a Care Order, both such situations will be terminated by the making of a Residence Order.

This will have the effect that the child will no longer be a looked after child and the placement will cease to come within the terms of this procedure.

The requirement for the Trust to visit and supervise the placement will cease, as will any fostering payments. However, the Trust may continue to support the child and kinship carer through the provision of family support services to meet the assessed needs of the child/carer. This support may also include the provision of financial support, (see Guidance re: Residence Order Allowances).

9.2 Duty of the Trust

The Trust has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child placed with a kinship foster carer; to satisfy itself that the placement is the most suitable way of performing its duty in respect of the looked after child; and that the placement is the most suitable, having regard to all the circumstances. The Trust’s duty is to ensure that the welfare, safety and needs of looked after children are paramount to decision making.

The Trust must also ensure compliance with the Minimum Kinship Care Standards for Northern Ireland.

†Social Workers and Kinship Foster Carers should also be aware of the DHSSPS Guidance on Delegated Authority to Foster Carers in NI; Circular CCPD 01/10 Feb 2010.
While kinship foster carers are assessed in respect of a specific child/ren (related or previously known to them) the Trust has the same duties and responsibilities for a child placed with kinship foster carers as it has for a child placed with any other Trust foster carer. All duties and responsibilities pertaining to looked after children must be discharged, this includes the minimum statutory visiting requirements pertaining to children who are looked after.

9.3 **Guiding Principles**

The child is central to the process of kinship foster care decision making. The Trust must ensure that the child is aware of the plans being made for them and that voice of the child is at all times heard.

A child/young person should only become Looked After:

- following a robust assessment of the child
- where there is a clear indication that the child/young person’s long-term outcome will be improved through the provision of a placement or there is a need for the child to be removed as a safety measure.

The assessment should consider the needs of the child and clearly identify the reasons why these cannot be met within the child’s current living arrangements. It should also clearly state the improvements and outcomes for the child in the short and long term that the placement is expected to bring about.

The removal of a child from the care of his or her parent/s or the change of placement should be considered in advance, unless circumstances warrant an immediate removal.

Where the removal of a child has not been planned the reasons for an immediate/emergency removal must be clearly recorded on the child’s file. The implications of an Immediate placement with the kinship foster carers should be considered as part of the assessment.

The decision to place a Looked After Child with a kinship foster carer (who should have an existing relationship with the child or have had an opportunity to develop a relationship with the child) must be founded on the best interests of the child.
9.4 Procedure For Placement With A Kinship Foster Carer

9.4.1 Placing the Child – Planned Placements

The removal of a child from their parents should be planned and the underpinning decision-making process and outcome recorded on the child’s file. Kinship carers should be assessed and approved as foster carers prior to the placement commencing.

Pre proceeding meetings or Family Group Conferences afford valuable opportunities to identify kinship carers who potentially could provide care should the child need to become looked after.

Regulation 3 of the Foster Placement (Children) Regulations and Schedule 1 of the Regulations sets out the information to be obtained and the range of factors to be considered during the assessment.

In addition, every effort should be made to ensure siblings who have lived together are placed together unless this is contrary to their assessed needs.

9.4.2 Emergency/Immediate Placements

The Foster Placement (Children) Regulations, regulation 11(3) allows for an emergency/immediate placement with a kinship carer who has not been approved as a foster carer.

Such placements should be exceptional and not for an admission to care for which contingency plans could have been made.

Use of such placements should be monitored by the Trust and reported in the Trust’s Delegated Statutory Functions Report to the HSCB.

**NB** Consideration must be given to convening a Family Group Conference as early as possible when placing a child in kinship care, if one has not been held already. While it may not be possible to convene a Conference immediately, holding a Family Group Conference as soon as possible affords the family the opportunity to be involved in decisions about the child and support to the kinship carer and birth family. A Family Group Conference will also help clarify plans for the child i.e. any work which needs to be undertaken in order for the child to return to the

The Children (NI) Order 1995 Art. 27 (8) (b)
care of his/her parent/s or depending on the assessment, other longer term/permanent arrangements.

A UNOCINI Assessment (Initial and/or Pathway– depending on the level and stage of social services involvement) should be completed prior to any decision about the need for a placement with a kinship foster carer.

**Prior to the Child being Placed - Ensuring the Placement is Suitable – Viability Assessment**

Where it is decided that an Immediate placement with a kinship carer is the most appropriate way to meet the child’s need the Trust should ensure that, in accordance with Regulations:

- the kinship carer(s) is interviewed
- the accommodation is inspected to ensure it is satisfactory for the child’s needs, taking into consideration the child’s age and any specific needs. Particular consideration needs to be taken of health and safety issues which need to be prioritised to mitigate any risks
- information is obtained about other members of the household.

The Trust should be satisfied that the placement is in the child’s best interests.

*This requires that the Trust make the fullest possible inquiries in the circumstances to satisfy itself that there is no information available which suggests that the placement is not suitable.*

This should include police and medical checks prior to placement (via telephone before the child is placed) and Trust Information System (or other Trust records as appropriate). Checks should include all persons over 10 years of age living in the household.

A written agreement should be made covering the details in regulation 11(4) of the Foster Placement (Children) Regulations (NI) 1996.

It is expected that the Viability Assessment is undertaken jointly with the child’s social worker and a social worker from the Trust’s Fostering/Family Placement Service, who will have responsibility for assessing the ongoing suitability of the placement.
Children Looked After Placement with Kinship Foster Carers

Where this is not possible prior to the Immediate placement, the child’s social worker should complete the pre placement checks alone, and no placement should be made prior to their completion.

At the time of placement, the child’s social worker must complete Form CLA 7 for endorsement by the relevant Senior Manager for Family Support or Safeguarding (Manager above the level of Senior Social Worker/Team Manager)

- obtain a signed Placement Plan, Part 1 from the kinship carer
- ensure the Essential Information Record is completed.

Immediately after the Placement

Where a joint Viability Assessment by the child’s social worker and the kinship/ fostering social worker was not possible prior to the placement, the child’s social worker must confirm/inform the Fostering Team immediately following the placement or, if outside normal working hours, earlier on the morning of the next working day.

The viability visit with the kinship social worker should, then be undertaken, within two working days of the placement being made. At this point if not previously signed the kinship carer should sign the Foster Care Agreement.

The kinship carer will complete an “Application to Act as a Carer” which includes a written agreement for the checks to be undertaken during the assessment process (see 9.5.1), if not already completed.

If in exceptional circumstances, a joint viability visit is not possible with the child’s social worker (i.e. due to illness, annual leave or an unforeseen emergency) within 2 working days, the kinship/fostering social worker should proceed with the visit alone.

The fostering/kinship social worker should ensure that he/she has a copy of the viability assessment completed by the child’s social worker and has an information pack to present to the kinship carers giving basic information about such placements.

Where the viability visit has not been undertaken jointly the reasons for this should be recorded on the record of the visit by the kinship/fostering
social worker. Any breach of this Standard should be monitored by the Trust and if required, action is taken to ensure such breaches are defensible and exceptional.

**Approval and Duration of the Immediate Placement**

Subject to the approval of the relevant Senior Manager (Manager above the level of Senior Social Worker/Team Manager) or Out-of-Hours Co-ordinator (if relevant), based on the information gathered in the viability assessment the placement may continue for a period not exceeding 12 weeks.

**14 Day LAC Review**

Should the child not return to the care of their parents a looked after child review must be convened within 2 weeks of the child becoming looked after.

**A Stage 1 Assessment** should start immediately after placement and certainly no later than the 2 week LAC Review in order to comply with the Regulatory timeline for the approval of the kinship carers as Trust kinship foster carers.

The two-week LAC Review should have sight of and take cognisance of the viability assessment i.e. the CLA7 and the proforma completed by the kinship/fostering social worker.

The Care Plan for the child/ren should determine the nature and timescale for the placement.

**Care Plan**

As soon as possible after placement, and always within 14 days of the Placement commencing, the Care Plan and Plan for the Placement should be formulated.

The Plan will be reviewed in accordance with the policy on Reviews of Children Looked After. If the child is subject to a Court Order of any kind this should be contained in the LAC forms.
Children Looked After

Placement with Kinship Foster Carers

**Supervision of Placement**

In the case of an Immediate placement, the child must be visited at least once in each week during the Placement or until the kinship carer is approved (Stage 1 assessment) as a foster carer by the Trust’s Fostering Panel.

A written report must be made following each visit and placed on the child’s file.

**Support to the Placement**

Financial support commences from the date the child becomes a looked after child and is the same as that applicable to all children in foster care (a copy of allowances should be given to the kinship foster carer by the fostering/kinship social worker at or immediately following the viability visit).

In addition to financial assistance, kinship foster carers and the child/ren in their care should have access to a range of support services e.g. supervising social worker, therapeutic and specialist intervention as appropriate, foster/kinship foster care support/group, opportunities for learning and development.

9.5 **Assessment and Approval of the Kinship Foster Carers**

9.5.1 **Procedure for a Stage 1 Assessment**

A Stage 1 Assessment (undertaken by the kinship/fostering social worker in collaboration with the child’s social worker) should start immediately, if the child has been placed in an Immediate/emergency placement, (no later than 2 weeks after the placement commenced) and be completed and approved by the Trust’s Fostering Panel within 12 weeks.

If the assessment is not completed and the kinship carer is not approved as a foster carer, within 12 weeks the placement becomes an unregulated placement.

Continuation of the placement must be authorised by the Director of Children’s Services or the Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting and reported to the Health and Social Care Board (Placement Notification on Any Child under 16 years of age in an Unregulated Placement).
A **Stage 1 Assessment** builds on the viability assessment (CLA7) and the information obtained during the viability visit.

It considers the suitability of both the carer(s) and the home where the child is to be accommodated (or has been accommodated) and, if appropriate, determines whether this placement has the potential to be the longer-term/permanent home for the child if required.

At a minimum, the **Stage 1 Assessment** includes:

- checks of police and barred list records by way of Enhanced Disclosure Checks (on everyone over 10 years of age in the household)
- medical reports
- Trust-held records (including Health Visiting records) relevant to the care of a child
- two written references from people (unrelated to the applicant) who have known the applicant for 2 years or more. Both referees should be interviewed. The social worker should comment on the weight to be given to the comments of the referees
- if the kinship carer is employed in the care of vulnerable adults or children, permission to seek a reference from their employer should be sought.

### 9.5.2 Assessment of Carer

The kinship/fostering social worker will interview the proposed kinship foster carer/s and all members of the household, addressing the issue of whether the individual child’s needs can be met, paying attention to the child’s religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background.

In addition, consideration must be given to the extent to which the placement might affect the child’s other family relationships, including contact with parents and the ability of the kinship carer to achieve the balance between acting to protect and safeguard the child and actively understanding and supporting the child’s continued need for a sense of identity and belonging with both sides of his birth family.

As an integral part of the process, the child’s social worker will also make an assessment of that child’s current needs and situation, and
progress being made during the placement, placing emphasis as far as is possible on the child’s own perception of events, feelings and wishes.

9.5.3 Approval of Kinship Carers as a Foster Carer

Following the completion of reference checks, consultations, interviews and the assessment of the kinship carer/s and the child, the Stage 1 Assessment is presented to the Trust’s Fostering Panel for consideration within 12 weeks of the placement commencing.

The kinship/fostering social worker and the child’s social worker will attend the Fostering Panel.

The kinship carer will also be invited and encouraged to attend. The content of the Assessment Report should be shared with the kinship carer while avoiding disclosure of information supplied by referees or other agencies or professionals i.e. 3rd party information.

On approval, the Panel Chairperson should issue the kinship foster carer with a letter of Notification and Certificate of Registration as per procedures in Section 17 of this Handbook.

Copies of all documents should be sent to the Senior Social Worker, Fostering Service who will ensure inclusion of the kinship foster carer on the Trust Register of Approved Foster Carers.

Once approved, the Trust will pay for the kinship foster carer/s to become a member of the Fostering Network.

If adoption is confirmed as the Care Plan for the child at the 3 month LAC review the Stage 2 Assessment should still be completed. An adoption assessment may commence following the LAC Review decision to pursue adoption if possible or after the Adoption Panel’s recommendation of a best interest decision for adoption. Information gathered through the kinship assessment can inform the adoption assessment.

The Stage 2 Assessment is fully recorded and the assessment record kept in accordance with Good Management Good Records requirements.

‡ Children Looked After Handbook of Policy and Procedures – Volume 2
9.5.4 Decision not to Approve

Robust decision making, good communication with kinship carers, the child’s social worker and the fostering service, adherence to this policy and procedure and the Minimum Standards for Kinship Carers should help ensure any issues or concerns are identified early and addressed.

Any issues arising during the course of the assessment, which might suggest the placement is unable to meet the child’s needs, should be discussed with the kinship carer and if possible resolved. Where this is not possible, the carers should be helped to understand the concerns arising and an alternative placement identified for the child/ren.

However should a Trust Fostering Panel feel it is unable to approve a kinship carer as a Trust foster carer (concerns should be clearly established) the Trust must make a determination about the future placement of the child without undue delay.

Any decision for the child to remain in placement in these circumstances must be made by the Director of Children’s Services and the HSCB notified of the unregulated placement.

Children should not remain in an unregulated kinship placement indefinitely, i.e. any concerns should be resolved as a matter of urgency and the placement subsequently approved or an alternative placement found.

The kinship carer is at liberty to appeal the decision of the Fostering Panel, in the same way as other prospective Foster Carer.

Continuation of the placement even in the short-term must be authorised by the Director of Children’s Services or the Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting and the HSCB notified of the Unregulated Placement.

9.6 Three month LAC Review

If the decision is made at the three month LAC review that the child cannot return home, or in the case of a child who is voluntarily accommodated that the parent does not wish the child to return home; then in accordance with the Regional Policy on Permanence decisions need to be made about the long term arrangements for the child.
The Review of Children’s Cases Regulations (NI) 1996 requires that the Trust has to consider at least at every statutory child care review whether or not to apply for discharge of a Care Order. Similarly, through partnership working with parents and families and by coming to a voluntary arrangement with them a Trust may obviate the need for a child to remain accommodated.

Permanence options outside of the care system need to be considered where this is consistent with promoting and safeguarding the welfare of the child. These may include kinship foster carers applying for a Residence Order for the child in their care or Adoption, with or without parental consent.

The Regional Policy on Permanence should be applied to all children placed with kinship foster carers as with all Looked after children.

**Procedure for a Stage 2 Assessment**

A **Stage 2 Assessment** continues to build on the assessment work undertaken during the Stage 1 Assessment and enables the continued suitability of the placement and ongoing support needs of child and carer to be considered.

A **Stage 2 Assessment** should include the following:
- How the kinship foster carer/s have met the child’s needs to date
- Any changes in the carer/s or child’s circumstances
- The carer/s capacity to meet the child’s future needs
- How any problems or difficulties have been dealt with
- The carer/s engagement with the Trust and any issues arising
- The child’s progress while in placement.

A **Stage 2 Assessment** should be completed within 6 months (at a maximum) from the date of the 3-month LAC Review, which determined the need for the placement to continue.

A **Stage 2 Assessment** is produced and presented to the Fostering Panel for consideration and approval. It is the responsibility of the Line Manager for the assessing kinship/fostering social worker to ensure that
the **Stage 2 Assessment** is undertaken and completed in a timely manner.

Where a **Stage 2 Assessment** has not been completed within the timescale set out in the Standards, the Fostering Panel should be advised of the reasons for the delay.

The Trust should have in place a system to ensure all assessments are completed within the required timescale. Any non-compliance should be monitored and actions taken to address any future similar difficulties.

The assessment is fully recorded and the assessment record kept in accordance with *Good Management Good Records* requirements.

At all times it is essential that the support needs of the child and of the kinship foster carer are kept under review.

Any concerns, which arise in relation to the care of the child or the suitability of the placement, must be dealt with in accordance with Trust policies and procedures.

**Decision not to Approve**

See 9.5.4 above

**9.7 Contingency Planning**

Despite robust assessment and planning, placements on occasions will disrupt. Therefore, it is important that this possibility is considered as part of the assessment and contingency arrangements are agreed.

**9.8 Annual Review of Approval**

All foster carers including kinship foster carers will be subject to an Annual Review of their Approval i.e. 12 months after their last presentation to the Fostering Panel. Reviews may take place more frequently should circumstances warrant this.

The kinship foster carer is provided with a written copy of the Review Report at least two weeks before the review meeting and encouraged to
attend the meeting. The 1st Annual Review Report will be presented to the Trust’s Fostering Panel.

All kinship foster carers are expected to make a commitment to their ongoing support and development needs i.e. training needs. This expectation should be clear from the beginning of the placement and clearly set out in the Foster Care Agreement.

The annual review report will identify any training needs and how these will be addressed and within what period. Where a kinship foster carer refuses, or is reluctant to avail of training, the reasons for this should be explored and agreement reached in terms of addressing any difficulties.

Where a recommendation is made in relation to a change to the carer’s approval status, or significant issues about a placement arise, the Review will be considered by the Fostering Panel.

The child’s social worker is kept fully informed of any issues/concerns.

9.9 Monitoring and Supervision of Placements

Following Stage One approval, the placement is subject to continued monitoring and supervision to determine whether the placement continues to meet the child’s needs or any further work is required to support the placement.

While the frequency of such visits should be proportionate and determined by the assessed need of the placement and the level of support required. It is expected that the kinship/fostering social worker will undertake visits to the kinship foster carers at least once in each calendar month for the first nine months.

Where a placement has been approved as a longer–term placement and the placement is settled, a decision may be made after 6 months to reduce the frequency of visits.

This should be discussed and agreed in advance with the kinship foster carer who should be clear as to how to access support should this be required outside of supervisory visits.
The child’s social worker has a legal requirement to visit the child at least once per month. The Trust expectation is that the child’s social worker will see the child at least once in each 4-week period.

The minimum expectation for visits by the Fostering/Kinship social worker for placements lasting nine months or longer is one visit in every 3-month period. At least one monitoring visit each year is unannounced.

Placement support should not just be seen solely in terms of visits to the kinship foster carer. Regular telephone contact, membership of a kinship foster care support group and attendance at support and development i.e. training opportunities are also very important.

It is also imperative that the child’s social worker and the supervising social worker are in regular contact with each other.

9.10 Where the child is subject to the Child Protection Procedures

Consideration should be given to convening a Child Protection Conference if a child is admitted to kinship foster care so that the Child Protection Plan can be reviewed to take cognisance of the new arrangements.

The ability of the kinship foster carers to protect the child and to work co-operatively with the Trust should also be considered.

The Child Protection and the Looked After Children’s processes establish multi-agency protection and care plans with clear expectations of better outcomes for the child (Guidance on Protecting and Safeguarding LAC 2010). When both processes are applied the situation can lead to duplication and become confusing and difficult for children and their families to understand. Good planning should seek to ensure that the only processes in operation are those of immediate significance to the plans for the child at that time.

A child might be subject to dual processes in exceptional circumstances, which include:

• Prior to a Looked After Child being discharged from Care to the care of their parents or family members, consideration should be given to convening a Child Protection Case Conference. This decision should be discussed and agreed at the LAC Review.
• Consideration should be given to convening a Child Protection Case Conference if a child is admitted to care on an emergency basis and a multi-disciplinary assessment, including an assessment of risk, has not yet taken place.

In **exceptional** circumstances when a Looked After Child is also subject to Child Protection processes both systems must be coordinated. The dual status arrangements should be for the minimum possible period of time and should not ordinarily exceed a maximum of 3 months.

Where a child becomes looked after and is on the Child Protection Register the next or a reconvened Child Protection Case Conference will take account of the individual circumstances and determine that the LAC Review process will take account of safeguarding issues and that these are appropriately addressed within the Care Plan.

The documentation available to the LAC Review and minutes of the LAC Review must clearly evidence that safeguarding issues have been afforded due consideration, that risks have been assessed and appropriate actions are contained within the Care Plan to reduce or manage these risks.

**NB Where a dual process is in place, safeguarding issues should not be managed by the LAC Review process where the kinship carers have not been approved by the Trust’s Fostering Panel. Child Protection concerns remain the remit of the Case Conference.**