

## Emergency foster care placements in response to the Ukraine crisis

The consequences of the Ukraine crisis, and the incremental impact of displaced families and unaccompanied children travelling to the UK, is likely to have a very significant impact on the delivery of, and increased demand for care services. At this time of great challenge across children's services dealing with unprecedented circumstances, the Care Inspectorate acknowledges that there may be a rise in the number of children from Ukraine seeking to be placed into foster care arrangements.

Due to the limited availability of foster carers there is a need to augment the number of placements available by utilising individuals who are both PVG checked **and** registered with a professional regulatory body as primary carers. These contingency arrangements apply to children from Ukraine only, where there is no alternative placement available. The identified carer would care for the child or young person in their own home.

It is important during these placements that the fostering agency satisfy themselves that:

- All other potential care options have been explored and the proposed provision is assessed as the most appropriate available;
- It has sought its own legal advice, and ensures it receives written confirmation that the process it wishes to follow is legally competent;
- The primary prospective carer is both PVG checked **and** registered with a professional regulatory body;
- The primary prospective carer is assessed as being fit to undertake this role in relation to their skills, environment, and others in the household;
- A proportionate framework of assessment is developed for carers and their accommodation which safeguards children and young people;
- Carers and children are matched to their respective skills and needs;
- There is provision of comprehensive and formalised foster carer support arrangements in place;
- Training for carers, that addresses the individual needs of children and the trauma they have experienced due to their circumstances, should be identified and put in place;
- The chair of the panel has oversight of the developed framework of assessment, matching criteria and support arrangements and have approved their use;
- All placements are approved by the Chair of the Panel/Fostering Panel;
- Arrangements are set for all placements to be reviewed after four weeks, and at regular appropriate intervals thereafter;
- The children will be deemed looked after and as such regular reviews should take place in line with LACC arrangements;
- The child or young person and accompanying adults as far as is possible and appropriate are involved in the decision making and arrangements.
- As far as possible, children should be placed together with their sibling groups