Job Description for Tameside MBC Fostering Panel Member

Job Description

1. To read the circulated papers (electronic copies) carefully before the meeting and to attend the meeting prepared to raise issues and to contribute to the panel discussion.

2. To take responsibility for participating in the making of a recommendation, on each case, drawing on both personal and professional knowledge and experience.

3. To attend meetings of the panel as specified in your agreement with the agency

4. To be prepared to attend additional panels if possible, if requested

5. To participate, with other members, in advising on policy and procedural matters as required

6. To address diversity issues and promote anti-discriminatory practice

7. To safeguard the confidentiality of all panel papers and panel discussions

8. To participate in induction and in training which will be at least once a year

9. To participate constructively in the annual review of your panel membership

Person Specification

Experience and Qualifications

- Experience, either professionally or personally or both, of the placement of children in foster families or of children being cared for away from their birth family.

- A social work qualification will be necessary for certain panel members

Knowledge

- An appreciation of the effect of separation and loss on children

- Awareness of the richness of different kinds of families and their potential for meeting children's needs

- Some understanding of the purpose and function of the panel and the agency which the panel is serving, or a willingness to learn.

Abilities

- Good listening and communication skills
- The ability to read, process and analyse large amounts of complex and sometimes distressing information.
- The ability to make an assessment and to form a view, based on the written and verbal information presented to panel, and the confidence to articulate this at panel.
- The ability to use personal and/or professional knowledge and experience to contribute to discussions and decision making in a balanced and informed manner.
- The ability to work co-operatively as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- The ability to attend panel meetings, as required, arriving on time, and to attend at least one trading day each year.

Attitude

- A commitment to keeping children within their own family or community where this is possible and to maintaining contact between children living in foster families and their birth families where this appears to be in the child's best interests.
- A commitment to fostering as a way of meeting a child's needs where this appears to be in the child's best interests.
- A commitment to safeguarding and promoting children's welfare in foster care.
- A valuing of diversity in relation to issues of ethnicity, religion, gender, disability and sexuality.
- An understanding of, and a commitment to, the need for confidentiality.