Stages 1 and 2: Foster carer assessment & approval process

Applicant (X) contacts fostering service (FS)

FS is recruiting and X's 'offer' is in line with recruitment objectives

Apply for stage 1 information as soon as possible

Stage 1 information indicates X is unsuitable

X is notified at any time (on the basis of full or partial stage 1 information) that they're unsuitable, but no more than 10 working days after all stage 1 information has been received

Process ends and X is informed that they can complain via the FS's complaints mechanism

X can apply to the IRM or make representations to the FS provider

Decision to end assessment (taking account of panel and any IRM recommendations)

Qualifying Determination that X is unsuitable

X can apply to the IRM or make representations to the FS provider

Decision that X is not suitable (taking account of panel and any IRM recommendations)

Process Ends

FS is not recruiting or X's 'offer' is not in line with recruitment objectives

Stage 1 information indicates assessment should continue

More than 10 working days has elapsed since receipt of all stage 1 information and X has not been notified that they are unsuitable

Before the full assessment is completed, stage 2 information indicates X is unsuitable

Brief report

Decision to continue assessment

Qualifying Determination to end assessment

Full assessment (stages 1 & 2) completed

Decision that X is suitable

X is approved to foster