

Contents

1	Introduction	1
<hr/>		
2	Assessing and selecting carers	3
	Gathering information and evidence	4
	Understanding prospective carers' motivation	4
	Exploring complex and sensitive issues	5
	Managing doubt and uncertainty	5
	Scrutiny by panels	6
	Further assessment of carers	7
	Assessing special guardians	7
<hr/>		
3	Ensuring children's welfare, safety and nurture	9
	Working with independent fostering providers	10
	Managing external pressures	11
	Improving placement planning and preparation	11
	Placing very vulnerable children	12
	Keeping track of individual children	12
	Listening to the child	13
	Reviewing children's well-being and the role of the IRO	14
	Ensuring that children's views inform LAC reviews	14
<hr/>		
4	Supporting carers	16
	Supporting foster carers	17
	Remaining impartial	18
	Supporting private foster carers	18
	Supporting prospective adopters before and after adoption	19
	Supporting special guardians	20
	Supporting family and friends carers	20
	Identifying a "child in need"	21
<hr/>		
5	Maintaining respectful uncertainty	22
	Seeing carers as heroes	22
	Asking questions about an absent child	23
	Identifying fabricated or induced illness	24

Avoiding manipulation	24
Retaining objectivity	25
Understanding the child's world	25
<hr/>	
6 Collaborating in the interests of the child	27
Sharing information – whose responsibility?	28
Accessing health information	28
Sharing information when children are placed for adoption or special guardianship	29
Sharing information between children and adult services	30
Sharing information about asylum-seeking children	30
Sharing information across local authority boundaries	31
Escalating concerns	31
<hr/>	
Suggested further reading	32
<hr/>	