



Adult Health Reports (AH form)

This practice note refers to the use of the CoramBAAF Adult Health (AH) form. This form is used to collate comprehensive information from an applicant, their GP, and which is then assessed and commented on by a suitably qualified medical professional acting in the position of Medical Advisor.

What are the expectations on services in respect of NEW applicants to foster?

Schedule 1, Part 1 of *The Fostering Panels (Establishment and Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2018* requires all assessments of prospective applicants to foster to include,

Details of health (supported by a medical report)

The Adult Health (AH) form is designed to fulfil this regulatory requirement and is therefore intended to be used during an assessment of new applicants to foster.

The medical assessment for prospective foster parents with their GP should take place as soon as possible once an assessment of suitability has commenced, for it to then be considered by the service's Medical Advisor. It should be noted that the social worker within the service should not be expected make a clinical analysis of the assessment by the prospective foster parent's GP, this role is undertaken by the Medical Advisor (MA). Only the MA can complete part C of the AH form and/or ascertain whether additional information is required from a GP or other specialist.

Further information in respect of good practice in this area can be found on pages 22 – 24 of the *AFA Cymru GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE to accompany The Fostering Panels (Establishment and Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2018*. [Fostering - AFA Cymru](#)

What are the expectations on services in respect of APPROVED foster parents?

Regulation 9 of *The Fostering Panels (Establishment and Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2018* sets out the requirements upon services to undertake an annual review of each fostering household. This states that when undertaking a review, the fostering services provider must—

Make such enquiries and obtain such information as considered necessary in order to review whether the foster parent continues to be suitable to act as a foster parent and the foster parent's household continues to be suitable

There is therefore no regulatory requirement to obtain a medical report as part of the yearly review process unless it is ***considered necessary*** to inform the decision making with regards to ongoing suitability to foster.

It is good practice to ensure the regular monitoring of the health and wellbeing of approved foster parents, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and to support a holistic and robust annual review. After approval, this monitoring can be undertaken in a variety of ways,

- Utilising the supervisory process to record health and wellbeing on a regular basis
- Use of a periodic health questionnaire to enable foster parents to self-declare any health-related changes (best utilised in line with annual review frequency)
- Utilising the annual review process to prompt and record any health-related impact on the ongoing suitability of the foster parent and their household

Should information from any of the above monitoring processes identify the need for further exploration, the option of undertaking an update medical assessment using the CoramBAAF form AH2 could be recommended or indeed a full medical assessment using the AH form. Both of these forms require a medical practitioner to assess the health of an individual and for the service Medical Advisor to review this assessment and provide a report in respect of ongoing suitability to foster.

Concluding remarks

The guidance above sets out the regulatory requirements and considers good practice. It is important that fostering services identify and agree their local policy in respect of the health assessment requirements for applicants and those approved as foster parents. In the production of any local policy we would recommend consideration is afforded to proportionality, making the best use of resources, and ensuring that the child is at the centre of any decision making.

To discuss the content of this practice note or for any other advice and guidance please contact the team at AFA Cymru

ADVICE LINE – do you have a question you would like to know the answer to? Give us a call on either 01745 336336 or 02920 761155

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