

No	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS	WHO?	TIME SCALE/ REVIEW DATE	PROGRESS AT25/10/11.....
1	Ensure the policy for the protection of children provides, in particular for consideration to be given to the measures which may be necessary to protect children placed with foster carers following an allegation of abuse or neglect (Regulation (12) (3) (e))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new safe caring policy for each foster child in the household is to be implemented immediately. The policy for each household will be updated when a new child is placed and at a minimum, annually, at the foster carers review. 	SSW	Reviewed annually. Next review 31 st March 2012	The new safe caring policy was implemented during the Inspection and is now in use.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear guidance is needed as to when a foster carer needs to be taken back to Fostering panel for review following an allegation. A clear distinction needs to be made between investigation into allegations of harm and discussions over standards of care, which, should be treated separately. New policy and procedure online, needs to be amended to cover issues raised. See recommendation 4 	LADO Sheila Khan Ann Bannister	Dec 2011	Meeting scheduled to confirm guidance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NMS state: a senior manager within the Fostering Service is identified to be the Designated Person who liaises with the LADO in all cases to which this procedure applies and manages the allegations process. This person needs to be identified. 	Sheila Khan	Review in Dec 11	Completed

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2	Ensure that written minutes of Panel meetings are accurate and clearly cover the key issues and views expressed by panel members and record the reasons for its recommendation (NMS 14.7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel Administrator is given clear instruction on recording the minutes. 	Sheila Khan	Monitor following each Panel	Completed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following consultation with panel on 25/10/11, the manner in which the minutes are checked is to be changed to panel members receiving the minutes at the same time as the Panel Chair. Panel members will inform the Panel Chair of any amendments or if minutes are agreed. Panel chair will complete all amendments and give reasons for the decisions and return to panel administrator to send to Agency Decision Maker. 	Sheila Khan	Review in Dec 11	Completed
3	Ensure that there is an effective out of hours advice and support service for foster carers (NMS 21.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer mentoring has been identified as a way of providing additional support. A group of foster carers and SSW's will meet to discuss what should be involved in the contract between foster carer, mentor and the Department re: boundaries and conditions etc. 	Sheila Khan	1 st April 2012 implementation date	Draft policy complete d. Meeting to consult with carers booked for 1/11/11
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Development team will be involved in training of mentors 	Kathy Kinnear	By April 2012	

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4	Ensure there is written guidance for foster carers and staff, which makes clear how they will be supported during an investigation into an allegation including payment of an allowance and any fee to foster carers whilst investigations are ongoing (NMS 22.11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear guidance regarding the payment of allowances and fees during an investigation is already provided in the Guide to Foster Carer Payments which is updated annually. • In addition to the Departmental Policy there is a need for a specific allegation against foster carers' policy. • Guidance is needed to inform carers of what support is available to them, to include information to buy in, independent support from an outside agency such as Fostering Network 	Sheila Khan Simon Garner	Review in April 2012	Completed
5	Ensure that each person on the 'central list' has access to appropriate training and skills development and is kept abreast of relevant changes to legislation and guidance (NMS 23.11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A central list of panel members needs to be recruited. • There is already a policy in place to ensure that Panel members are aware of the necessity for them to attend appropriate training and joint training at least annually with Fostering Staff. • Panel members to be provided with a copy of the Fostering Regulations, Guidance & NMS 2011 booklet from Fostering Network. 	Simon Garner Sheila Khan	By April 2012	Sheila Khan to arrange training for panel members with Fostering Service early next year. Schedule for 2012 training to be issued in January 2012. Agreement given to purchase BAAF Guide to Effective Panels for all panel members.