

## LEICESTERSHIRE'S FOSTERING PANEL

All persons approved as foster carers have had their application to become Foster Carers considered by the Fostering Panel. The Fostering Panel is not a decision-making body but is formed to ensure high standards of practice in all areas of foster care. Its central function is to be responsible for all the recommendations relating to:

- (a) Approval
- (c) Re-approval
- (c) De-registration
- (d) Change of usage from one type of foster care to another
- (e) Review of complaints made by Foster Carers
- (f) Any other issues or specific concerns which would influence your role as Foster Carers.

The recommendations of the panel are considered by the agency decision-maker - The Assistant Director of Children and Young People's Services.

- The Fostering Panel meets once a month. Foster carers are invited to attend and participate if the panel is considering any issue relating to them.
- There is an independent chairperson.
- Other panel members are a community medical officer, an education department representative and a county councillor. There are representatives from childcare operations and from the family placement team. There is a foster carer representative, (who cannot be a foster carer for the county), as well as independent members.
- The Panel tries to ensure there is a balance of members that reflects equal representation for minority groups. Panel members are expected to attend on a regular basis, thereby ensuring continuity. All Panel members agree to keep the information that they receive as confidential.
- Carers who do not agree with the decisions of the panel can ask for the panel to reconsider its decision, they can ask for additional information to be presented and can attend themselves. The LFCA and Fostering Network can both be used to give advice.