



9 February 2021

Dear Stakeholder

**Interim Flexibilities: The Fostering Panels (Establishment and Functions)  
(Wales) Regulations 2018**

We wrote to you in November to update you that from 8<sup>th</sup> November we require all prospective foster carer applicants entering the system, to access either a face to face or remote health assessment by a GP during the assessment process and before progressing to foster panel. We also confirmed that by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, all foster carers approved utilising a self-declaration of health form must have completed a full adult health assessment and the service must complete a review of their approval, under the regulatory first year review process.

In Wales, progress towards ensuring continued access to these medical assessments with a GP, whether via face to face or remote means has been positive, and I am appreciative of the way the sector has collaboratively worked to enable this to happen.

We are however, aware that GP practices are experiencing additional pressures due to the vaccination programme and that to meet the deadline for full medical assessments by 31<sup>st</sup> March will be challenging. There will also be additional pressure presented to fostering panels who will need to complete an increased volume of reviews for those foster cares previously approved on a temporary basis.

With this in mind we would like to offer an eight week extension to the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 which will mean all foster carers approved utilising a self-declaration of health form must have completed a full adult health assessment and the service must complete a review of their approval, under the regulatory first year review process by 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

I hope this goes some way in alleviating some pressure that I know the sector is currently experiencing. I would like to thank you all for your continued work and support during the pandemic.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Davey', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Alistair Davey *MA Chartered FCIPD*  
Deputy Director, Enabling People  
Directorate of Social Services and Integration