PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

PACT's Unique 'Dual Approval' Scheme *fostering with a view to adopt*

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PACT – Parents And Children Together

- Charity 101 years old
- Expertise in children's services
- One of the top performing VAAs
- Investment in fostering
- London & Reading offices

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Performance over last 3 years

- 69 children placed in 2011/12 (30% increase yearly since 2009. 40% 2012)
- FACTS (Fostering and Adoption Consultation and Therapeutic Support)
- Low disruption rates – less than 1% average over 2009/12
- Fostering service re-launched April 2012
- 115 families recruited to adopt & foster in 2012

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Dual Approval – Ideas and Creative Solutions

- Simultaneous dual approval of applicants
- Works for *older* children on LT Fostering Plans
- Allows recruitment of foster carers open to adoption / Special Guardianship
- Makes use of traditional adoption & fostering resources already established
- Focuses on 'chemistry' giving children a real chance of adoption as it allows a relationship to grow between carer and child

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Dual Approval – How it works

- 'Permanence' is a factor from Day 1
- Preparation includes Fostering & Adoption modules
- Dual Approval by joint Panel
- Support by experienced Social Workers / FACTS
- Placement under fostering regulations
- 3 year plan towards adoption / SGO
- 3 years of fixed fees for LA
- 90% success rate at PACT since 2000

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Dual Approval – Barriers

- Delays and / or reluctance in moving on from failed adoption plans for children
- Inability to see beyond a 'Form F' or 'PAR'
- Funding issues – what if the child is never adopted?
- Questioning carers motivation
- Waiting for something 'better'
- Comparisons to traditional A & F

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Partnership Working with Local Authorities

- Early identification of children allows for better planning
- Access to FACTS
- Option for reduced fees or transfer of carer at end of 3 years if no adoption order or SGO secured
- Ability to reach more children

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What do the carers say?

A short film on dual approval

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Opportunity Knocks?

- A time to redefine how we place children
- Making dual approval a real option for applicants
- Committed to reducing delay for Children
- Working in partnership to Family Find for children
- Recruiting carers differently

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Thank you and spread the word!