



## **Chrysalis Care Internet Search Policy**

### **Principles Chrysalis Cares adopt in Fostering Assessments**

1. *Chrysalis Care has a responsibility to provide advice to prospective foster carers about internet safety.*

Becoming a foster carer has implications regarding how information about an applicant on the internet may be used and accessed by parties involved in a placement e.g. children or young people who are looked after, their parents and social work professionals.

Chrysalis Care has an obligation to advise applicants of those implications and provide advice about protecting the privacy and security of the prospective foster carer and, should they be approved, any child placed with them.

Advice: appropriate privacy settings on social networking websites

For relevant safeguarding information please go to [www.chrysaliscare.org.uk](http://www.chrysaliscare.org.uk).

2. *Chrysalis Care has a responsibility to take reasonable and proportionate steps to ensure there is no concerning information about prospective foster carers publicly available on the internet.*

Chrysalis Care believes it is reasonable and appropriate for us to check that any information readily available on the internet regarding applicants does not indicate that they would be inappropriate to care for children.

Due to technology constantly changing and adapting, definitive and up to date guidance on the exact nature of this search is difficult to provide. However, we will check the applicant's name in a reputable internet search engine. We will not insist upon accessing the applicant's personal area of a social networking site, but would

ensure the applicant is made aware of the importance of their public profile information.

Any information gleaned from an internet search that raises concern about the assessment will be shared openly with the applicant concerned to gain their perspective and will be placed in the context of the assessment as a whole. Any sensitive or personal information about an applicant will be treated with respect at all times.

3. *Any internet checks will only be carried out with signed consent and full understanding of the applicant.*

Chrysalis care will not carry out internet checks without the consent of the prospective foster carer. Such consent will be sought in the context of the preparation and vetting aspects of an assessment.

We hope it is clear why and how the internet search is being carried out as well as the other checks we undertake and how they are used to inform your fostering assessment.

If you do not wish to give your consent to this check being carried out, the reasons for this should be clearly given. These will then be incorporated into the assessment report.

The absence of consent will require careful consideration and risk assessment by the assessing social worker.

## **Chrysalis Care**

### **Procedure for the recruitment of ex-offenders**

*Chrysalis Care intends to comply fully with the CRB Code of Practice. We also intend to comply with the obligations stated in the Data Protection Act 1998 and other relevant legislation.*

*Chrysalis Care undertakes CRB checks on all members of staff, foster carers and certain other adults aged 18 or over to determine their suitability to work with Looked After Children.*

*Chrysalis Care recognises the vulnerability of such children and young people and its duty to protect and promote their safety.*

*Chrysalis Care is committed to the fair treatment of all staff, potential staff, fostering applicants and members of their family and foster carers. We promote equality of opportunity for all and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates including those with a criminal record.*

#### **Requirement of CRB Disclosure**

Chrysalis Care is an organisation that provides foster care for Looked After Children. Fostering regulations 2002 and Fostering Standards require that all adults working with such children undertake an Enhanced Disclosure. This is made clear to all applicants to Chrysalis care.

Applicants to Chrysalis care are encouraged at the beginning of the process to discuss any aspects of a criminal record.

Fostering applicants will be asked during the first visit to discuss any convictions with the qualified assessor. It will also be explained that failure to reveal relevant information may lead to their assessment being terminated.

Any disclosure information will be discussed by the fostering managers and a decision taken as to the relevance of such information for the position of foster carer. Disclosure information will also be presented to the Fostering Panel to enable them to make a decision about the suitability of applicants.

Having a criminal record will not necessarily prevent an applicant working for Chrysalis Care or becoming a foster carer. This will depend on the circumstances and nature of any possible offences.

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SWS. Doc. 2c