



THE COMPLEXITIES OF MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADOPTION AND FOSTERING PANELS:

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE BIOGRAPHIC AND PROFESSIONAL INFLUENCES ON PANEL MEMBERS' DECISION-MAKING.

This briefing provides a summary of the findings of 5 years of research, based on panel observations and interviews of panel members, to answer the following questions:

- What is the underlying thinking of panel members when arriving at their recommendations on the suitability /approval of foster carers / adopters and matches?
- In what ways do adoption and fostering panel members biographies, attitudes and values influence their role occupancy and recommendation making?
- To what extent does a panel members conceptualisation of their professionalism impact on their role in the panel?
- Are panels the right structure to determine who is suitable to foster or adopt and to be placed with which child(ren)?
- What are the group processes at play when panels make their recommendations?
- What are the systems, methods and techniques that impact on recommendations?