**SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELL-BEING (WALES) ACT**

**CASE STUDY**

**Matthew**

Matthew is nine year old boy of black Caribbean heritage. He is on a care order and placed and matched in long-term foster care. His original permanency plan was to seek an adoption placement, but this was not achieved as no suitable family to meet his needs was identified.

Matthew has a range of disabilities including global developmental delay, a shunt in his head to prevent fluid on the brain building up, and other medical complications. He remains with long-term foster carers where he was initially placed five years earlier. They are a white couple in their 60s who are committed to him but do not want to adopt or seek a special guardianship order.

Matthew’s mother disappeared after the care proceedings but has recently been located by Matthew’s new social worker. She lives in a neighbouring authority with her two-year-old daughter. His mother was surprised to hear that Matthew was not adopted and pleased he was with the same foster carers. Matthew remembers his mother and would like to see her. The foster carers are very worried that this will upset and disturb Matthew.

**Questions**

1. How can the social worker, carers and mother work together to facilitate positive contact?
2. What specific support needs might the foster carers have? How can these be met?
3. What specific support needs might Matthew and his mother have? How can these be met?
4. What are the factors that will need to be addressed in considering the best permanency option for Matthew?
5. What do you consider to be the most positive outcome for Matthew?