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

**CASE STUDY – March 2017**

**Erin**

Erin is 17 years old. She has lived with her current foster carers for 2 years. Erin first became looked after when she was 14 and has moved foster placement twice before being placed with her current carers.

Erin’s parents split up when Erin was 13 and her mother, who suffered from depression, found it increasingly difficult to manage boundaries for Erin. Erin started missing school and often stayed out late. This culminated in Erin frequently staying away from home and moving from relative to relative following her mother’s new partner moving into the home. Over the past 6 months, Erin has renewed her contact with her mother.

Erin settled very well with her current carers and has responded positively to the care and consistency that they have offered her. Her foster carers have seen her development progress but they do still have concerns that she does not yet have the skills or confidence to live independently. Erin has said that she is scared about what's going to happen in the future and she wants to be able to live with foster carers who will help her to learn skills that she will need to live independently.

Her carers have encouraged her in her ambitions and interests, she is keen on sport and wants to go to the local college to do a sports and fitness qualification.

Erin’s social worker has discussed “When I am Ready” with Erin and her carers and both Erin and her foster carers have expressed interest in entering into a when I am ready arrangement when Erin is 18.

**Exercise**

Explore and discuss the considerations and issues of entering into a When I am Ready arrangement from each party’s perspective by considering “what matters to me” from the perspective of:

* Erin
* The foster carers
* Erin’s mother
* Social services/social worker
* The fostering provider