

Adopters for Adoption

Statement of Purpose - February 2019

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1. History & Approach

A Brief History of Adopters for Adoption

Adopters for Adoption is a national adoption agency set up in 2014 to improve the way adopters are recruited, prepared, assessed and supported and to reduce delay for children waiting for an adoptive family.

As the name suggests, our values and services are driven by people who have experience of the process and who are successful adopters.

We made a deliberate decision to call the agency 'Adopters for Adoption' as we wanted to make sure adopters were at the centre of our thinking, and to widen the number of potential adopters from the general population. We continue to challenge the myths that surround adoption and remain open to enquiries from all sectors of the population.

Our development steering group was made up of adopters whose children range in age from 2 to 32 years old, are brothers and sisters, single children and some have disabilities. This first hand knowledge of adoption ensured that the voice of the adopter was influential in our planning and development of our practice.

As part of the Core Assets Group, we combine over 24 years' experience of achieving exceptional outcomes for children and families with a desire to transform the way adopters are recruited, supported and ensuring that people are always more important than the process.

Our Approach

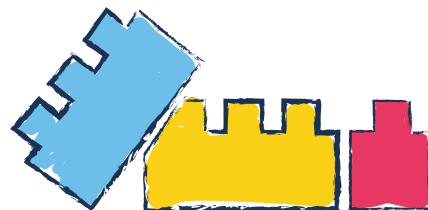
We were founded by people with first-hand experience of the adoption process and are committed to ensuring that the services we provide will always put adopters and children waiting for adoption first.

We firmly believe that many potentially excellent adopters think they won't be "allowed" to adopt so rule themselves out when they don't need to. We constantly challenge those assumptions and encourage people who are thinking about adoption to get in touch so we can have an informed discussion.

We strive for a team approach to supporting families. All adopters will not only be allocated a dedicated Social Worker, but have the support of our whole team throughout the adoption journey.

Prospective adopters are not discriminated against because of any specific individual characteristics. For example, there are older adopters, single adopters and adopters in same-sex relationships.

~ Ofsted, 2018 Inspection



2. Aims & Objectives

The values outlined in the Adoption National Minimum Standards 2014 underpin all our work.

- The child's welfare, safety and needs are at the centre of the adoption process.
- Adopted children should have an enjoyable childhood, and benefit from excellent parenting and education, enjoying a wide range of opportunities to develop their talents and skills leading to a successful adult life.
- Children are entitled to grow up as part of a loving family that can meet their developmental needs during childhood and beyond.
- Children's wishes and feelings are important and will be actively sought and fully taken into account at all stages of the adoption process.
- Delays should be avoided as they can have a severe impact on the health and development of the children waiting to be adopted.
- A sense of identity is important to a child's well-being. To help children develop this, their ethnic origin, cultural background, religion, language and sexuality need to be properly recognised and positively valued and promoted.
- The particular needs of disabled children and children with complex needs will be fully recognised and taken into account.
- Children, birth parents/guardians, families, adoptive parents and families will be valued and respected.

We aim to:

- Provide a full and comprehensive range of adoption and adoption support services, available to those affected by the adoption process, that will be consistent with best practice and national standards and requirements.
- Provide permanency for children and young people through recruiting, assessing and providing a suitable and diverse range of families to meet the needs of children and young people who need to be adopted.
- Ensure adoptive parents are helped and supported in understanding the importance of keeping information provided by the birth family safe and giving this information to the adopted child in an age appropriate and timely manner.
- Support prospective adopters and adoptive parents in managing their responses and feelings arising from caring for the child, particularly where the child displays very challenging behaviour and enable them to understand how the child's previous experiences can manifest in challenging behaviour.
- To have a role in developing innovative practice and maintaining service delivery to a high standard.
- Continue to develop positive relationships with Local Authorities who are benefiting from the evidenced based Safer Stronger Adoptive Families Programme. This intervention is delivering positive outcomes for adoptive families as well as value for money for the authority.

Objectives

- To recruit, prepare, train and assess a diverse range of families to meet the needs of children and young people to be adopted.
- To ensure we have a sufficient pool of high quality prospective adopters to offer placement choice.
- Prospective adopters are prepared and supported to promote the child's social and emotional development, and to enable the child to develop emotional resilience and positive self-esteem.
- To improve the life chances of children through adoption to enable them to reach their full potential.
- Support families post matching and linking to ensure placements succeed.
- To adapt our service to the needs of our adopters through open and honest feedback with our adopters.
- Maintain a commitment to safe, high quality services with a focus on outcomes and compliance.
- Ensure that children and young people have a voice.
- Develop robust support, training and communication with adopters to ensure that the agency remains adopter-led.
- Ensure sustainability by achieving the overall target numbers and budget for 2019.
- Continued growth in terms of placements and adoption support through infrastructure investment and a focus on making links with Local Authorities and Regional Adoption Agencies.

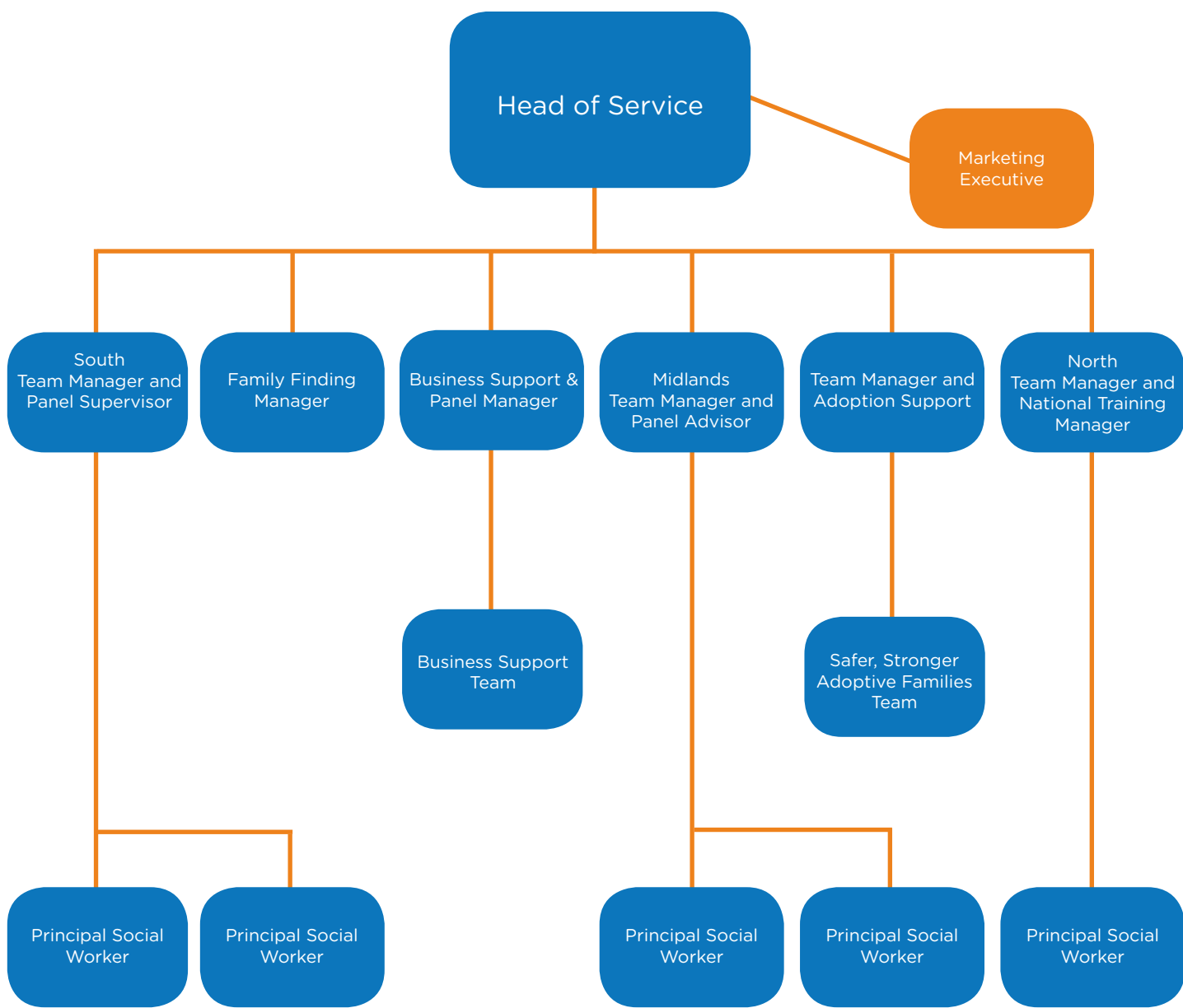
3. The Management & Structure

Adopters for Adoption’s Board, led by the Responsible Individual and Managing Director, provides governance and oversight to the Agency. The Board is responsible for the direction of the Agency, for defining policies and procedures and

approving budgets. The Boards’ role is to ensure accountability and compliance with relevant legislation and that Adopters for Adoption remains a safe service. Our Board meets on a monthly basis and consists of the Responsible Individual, Head of Service, Business Improvement Manager and Finance Business Partner. Half of our board members are adopters or are adopted themselves.

4. The Staffing Structure

Below is the staffing structure for Adopters for Adoption.



5. The Adoption Panel

The members of Panel at Adopters for Adoption are people with complementary experience within the professional arena of child care and lay members with relevant personal life experience. Medical and Legal advisors are also appointed and effectively serve the Panel.

Our members are thorough with their duties, but offer a welcoming and friendly atmosphere to prospective adopters as they understand how daunting this experience can be.

The role and function of the Panel appointed by Adopters for Adoption is to:

- Ensure that the assessment process has been adequately carried out and meets the requirements of the law and agency policy.
- Examine applications thoroughly and consider whether there is evidence of the applicants' abilities and suitability to adopt.
- Carry out a rigorous quality assurance function.
- Make recommendations in relation to the approval, review and de-registration of adopters.

- Advise on professional standards and practice, and any other issue which the Head of Service wishes them to consider.
- Monitor activity and quality of practice of the Adoption Service.
- Remain child-focused and ensure adopters have the capacity to meet the needs of vulnerable children.

Applications in which there is a disclosure of a specified offence through the DBS process, or a conviction which is deemed to pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults are automatically considered unsuitable and will not therefore be presented to Panel for consideration.

The Panel members are required to safeguard the confidentiality of panel documents.

The agency is supported by clear policies and procedures, which meet the required Regulations and Legislation.

We were a little nervous, but all members of the panel were welcoming and helped us to feel at ease to enable us to fully answer their questions.

~ Jill & Glyn, Approved Adopters

Key to the Adopters for Adoption Panel is including members with direct and personal experience of adoption; we have members who have adopted as well as members who have been in care.

We want applicants to feel welcomed and valued when they come to Panel.

~ Amy Weir, Panel Chair



6. Services Offered

Adoption

- The recruitment and assessment of adopters, who are able to offer a range of placements for children of all age groups, with a range of disabilities and both single children and sibling groups.
- A comprehensive programme of training, both pre and post approval.
- Three day Preparation to Adopt training for all prospective adopters
- Regular Friends & Family training days to enable prospective adopters' support networks to have a better understanding of adoption and the best ways of support.
- A qualified, experienced team of social workers to recruit, assess, train and support adopters.
- Dedicated agency Family Finder, assigned with supporting adoptive families to find the right children for them.
- Social work support throughout the matching, placement and adoption process, and through to Adoption Order.
- Regular training covering topics such as Attachment, Child Development, Safeguarding, CSE, Bullying, Prevent Radicalisation, County Lines and Internet Safety.
- Bi-monthly newsletter for applicants in Stage Two and approved adopters.

Adoption Support

- Bi-monthly support groups for adopters in their region.
- Specialised and extensive post adoption support including our evidence based Safer Stronger Adoptive Families Programme.
- Access to psychological and therapeutic support where appropriate.
- Access to professional advice and support to support the educational needs of the adopted children.
- Access to therapeutic parenting training programmes.
- The first year's subscription to Adoption UK for adopters, giving access to member support groups, bi-monthly magazines, workshops, training and more.



7. The Recruitment and Approval Process Overview



Contact us/Enquiry

Get in touch with us. You can telephone, email or enquire online. We'll send you our information pack.



Initial Phone Call

An initial phone call provides you with an opportunity to find out more information and ask any questions you may have.



Registration of Interest

Following the initial phone call you may decide you want to adopt with us. We'll then provide you with a Registration of Interest Form.



Adoption Panel

All reports are submitted to a panel who will consider all the information provided and make a recommendation about whether you're suitable to adopt to the Agency Decision Maker.



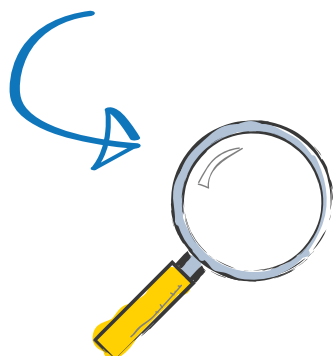
Assessment

Your social worker will arrange visits with you and together you'll complete an Assessment Agreement and a Prospective Adopter's Report, which will be presented to the adoption panel.



Pre-Assessment

Once we accept your form, the pre-assessment stage one will begin. This involves undertaking checks and references, preparation and training.



Family Finding

Now you're an approved adopter, we'll start looking for a child or children who'll fit well with you and your family. This is called 'matching'.



Becoming a Family

When a match is found, and following a period of introductions, the child or children move in to your home, an adoption order will then be made by the court and you'll become their legal parent.



Family Support

As part of your matching and support plan, we'll talk about the post-adoption support you and your child or children may need and how you can access this.

Initial Enquiry

All enquiries regarding adoption are welcome.

We operate an open and inclusive enquiry process taking into account the needs of children waiting for an adoptive placement and our predictions in relation to likely future need.

To ensure anti-oppressive and non-discriminatory practice, adoption services will be delivered without bias or discrimination. Particular difficulties encountered by some sections of the community in approaching the service are recognised and, where necessary, arrangements will be made to counter these difficulties.

The assessment process is divided into two stages, designed to support prospective adopters in their decision making about adoption and to ensure our decisions are made in an open, timely and fair way. For most applications this process will last approximately six months from the point of formal registration of interest.

- The potential adopter approaches the agency and is given a copy of the Adopter Information Pack and Adoption Passport so that they are clear about the help and support they can expect, should they decide to pursue their interest in adoption. In addition we also make them aware of any additional services available in the local area.
- Where a potential adopter decides that they would like to pursue adoption further we respond impartially to requests for information and provide this within ten working days through an Information Pack, initial call, visit or similar. We provide detailed information to enable potential adopters to consider whether they want to proceed with the approval process and to reflect on the parenting needs of the children awaiting adoption. We ensure that the information provided also enables them to consider their expectations of adoption, (and the consequences for them and their family of caring for an adopted child) who may have a range of complex needs.
- Once a potential adopter has decided that they wish to pursue their interest with us they are invited to complete a 'Registration of Interest Form'.
- On receipt and acceptance of the Registration of Interest forms the potential adopter starts the assessment process. A suitably qualified and trained social worker will be assigned to undertake the assessment.

In the event that a potential adopter chooses to withdraw their interest in adoption after beginning the process the reasons for this are recorded and subsequently evaluated in order to inform the agency's recruitment programme.



Stage One

(TIMESCALE OF TWO MONTHS)

Stage One focuses on initial training, preparation and ascertaining, through prescribed checks and references, whether the prospective adopter is suitable to adopt a child and should be invited to proceed further.

- Unless there are exceptional circumstances which mean that more time is needed, we notify the potential adopter if their 'Registration of Interest Form' is accepted by the agency within five working days of receipt.
- The prospective adopter is closely involved in the Stage One process and the agency fully takes into account the prospective adopter's wishes on how they wish to proceed.
- In line with the above, a 'Stage One Plan' is drawn up between the agency and the prospective adopter setting out everyone's responsibilities and expectations for this stage of the process.
- We complete all necessary statutory checks, including criminal records checks, medicals and various references.
- All prescribed checks and references are carried out in parallel with the initial training and preparation we provide to prospective adopters during Stage One.
- Based on the information gathered in stage one we make a decision about whether prospective adopters continue to Stage Two. Where it is clear that Stage One will take longer than two months, for example when a reference or check is delayed or the prospective adopter wants more time, we detail the reasons for the extended timescale on the prospective adopter's case record.
- If we decide that a prospective adopter may be suitable to adopt a child, we notify the applicants of this decision in writing and explain that they must notify the agency within six months of the date of the agency's notification if they wish to proceed to Stage Two.
- If a prospective adopter wishes to take a break between Stage One and Stage Two, or if we recommend such a break, this is subject to a maximum time limit of six months. Where this break is longer than six months the prospective adopters will need to restart Stage One (in these circumstances, we respond within five working days of contact from the prospective adopter and offer them a re-entry interview).
- If we decide that a prospective adopter is not suitable to adopt during or at the end of Stage One, we inform them of the decision and provide them with a clear written explanation of the reasons why they will not be able to proceed to Stage Two. Prospective adopters

who wish to complain about this decision are advised that they may make a complaint using the agency's Representation and Complaints Procedure and that they may also raise general concerns about the process with the National Gateway for Adoption.





Stage Two

(TIMESCALE OF FOUR MONTHS, WITH POSSIBLE TWO MONTH EXTENSION)

On receipt of notification from the prospective adopter that they wish to proceed, we commence Stage Two of the process. There is a process to ‘fast track’ some applications, for example second time adopters and existing foster carers wanting to adopt children in their care.

- We make a decision as to the outcome of Stage Two within four months. In exceptional circumstances, which mean we cannot make the decision within that time or we need to delay making the decision upon the request of the prospective adopter, we record the reasons for any extension on the prospective adopters’ case record.
- We complete an ‘Stage Two Plan’ with the prospective adopters to provide clarification and agreement on the focus of the assessment, applicable timescales, agreed training and any other relevant matters building on the learning from Stage One.
- We assign a suitably qualified social worker to carry out a home study/assessment with the prospective adopters, which focuses on analysis of their strengths, parenting capacities and areas for development.
- We provide necessary intensive preparation and training.
- We prepare a Prospective Adopters Report that contains the information required by the Adoption Agencies Regulations (AAR) 30(2) and provide a copy of this report to the prospective adopters. We invite them to send their observations within five working days before presenting this report to Panel.
- Panel reviews the report together with the other documents specified in AAR 30(6). The panel makes a formal recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker regarding the suitability or not to adopt of the prospective adopter/s.
- The Agency Decision Maker (ADM) then decides if a prospective adopter is suitable to adopt.
- We notify the prospective adopter of that decision within two working days and written confirmation is sent to them within five working days. Where the ADM is minded not to approve the application, the applicants are given the opportunity to make representations to the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) for an independent review of their assessment by the IRM Panel.
- Prospective adopters are provided with details about, and made aware of their right to access, the (IRM) once they have entered into Stage Two.

8. Adoption Training

Adopters for Adoption offer a wide range of training opportunities to meet the learning needs of prospective and approved adopters.

We provide direct training formally, as well as bespoke training offered more informally through the support groups and individually through support social workers.

We offer four levels of support to adopters and the training we provide makes all of these as accessible as possible.

Preparation to Adopt delivered to prospective adopters

Mandatory for all prospective adopters, this three day training course covers a range of topics including: attachment, child development, trauma, loss and separation.

Themed workshops

Provided approximately bi-monthly at support group meetings in each hub. Topics are chosen by group members and issues which arise within the groups are discussed. Topics include

- Attachment - focusing on a range of issues such as promoting attachment during early stages of placement, the impact of trauma on attachment, attachment styles, and corresponding behaviours.
- PACE parenting.
- Meeting birth parents - how to prepare and what to expect.
- The foster carers' role during inductions
- Identity - where it comes from and how to promote it.
- Life Story work - how to facilitate ongoing stories, make life story work part of life and accessible.
- Working with a child's school and EHC plans - knowing your rights and writing a good plan.
- Contact - how to promote it, write letters and keep it meaningful over time.

Attachment Training

A one day course available to all approved adopters and applicants in Stage Two, aimed at building on learning adopters did during their assessment. Experiential learning focusing on attachment, brain development and therapeutic parenting.

First4Adoption Online Training

Mandatory for all prospective adopters in Stage One, this online training covers 4 main areas of learning including: backgrounds of children who come into care; attachment and its importance for adoption; heritage and identity and challenges and transitions when a child is placed

Kate Cairns Training

Online access is available to all approved adopters and those in Stage Two of assessment. Modules available include: Adolescence, attachment and brain development, behaviours and physical environment, brain development and positive parenting, building resilience, child development, children's rights, communicating with children and young people, domestic violence, emotional coaching, equality and diversity, impulsive behaviour, narrative work, secondary trauma, self-harming behaviours, transitions and vulnerability, and understanding trauma.

Family & Friends Training

A one day training course available to friends and family of prospective adopters to increase awareness and knowledge of adoption and attachment and facilitate focused thinking about how adoptive families can be supported emotionally and practically.

Prevent Training

Access to online Prevent Radicalisation and extremism training is available to all our staff, and adopters receive information regarding Safeguarding CSE and Radicalisation.

Internet Safety

Although not compulsory, Adopters for Adoption recommend that adopters visit the ThinkuKnow website and undertake training that is offered. ThinkuKnow aims to empower children and young people ages 15-17 to identify the risks they may face online and know where they can go for support.



9. Matching

Approved adopters are supported and advised by the dedicated agency Family Finder and the supporting Social Worker in the process of identifying the child or children to join their family. The adopters' PAR serves as a matching tool for both Agency and Local Authority Social Workers when considering how adopters can meet the needs of children waiting.

Prospective adopters are encouraged to be pro-active in terms of matching and need to register their details on the National Adoption Register, we also suggest registering for Link Maker and Adoption UK.

They are also supported in attending Activity Days and Exchange Events hosted by Local Authorities, regionally and nationally.

The agency Family Finder and the supporting Social Workers are involved in the process of linking and matching and support approved adopters by providing an objective overview and opinion regarding the suitability of a proposed link. This objectivity is informed by their knowledge and experience of the adopters and expertise in placing children for adoption.

The matching process is extensive and the agency ensures that prospective adopters have access to all the information available in respect of a child including health, development and birth history, enabling the adopter to make informed decisions with the support of the Family Finder and Supporting Social Worker about the suitability of a potential match.

The support provided to a placement, from both agencies, will also be considered as part of this process and confirmed in writing. The prospective adopters will be supported and encouraged to contribute to the Adoption Placement Report. We aim to involve a child as much as possible, dependent upon their age and understanding with the support of their Social Worker, in the decision making regarding a potential placement. We recognise that this is not always appropriate or possible and will be sensitive to the needs of each child in this respect.



10. Supporting Adopters and Children Placed for Adoption

- Following approval as being suitable to adopt, the prospective adopter becomes actively involved and supported in the home finding process.
- Once a placement is agreed we provide intensive support to the adopters during the introductory period and early weeks of placement. Support continues to be provided at a frequency and level in accordance with assessed and agreed need. All children placed receive an age appropriate Guide to Adoption.
- Adopters for Adoption will support adopters through to Adoption order and then offer ongoing access to local Support Groups. All adopters can seek further support and advice from the agency post order.
- Adopters for Adoption offer support, advice and guidance to adopted adults who were placed with our adopters. This may assist adoptees to identify the placing agency, and thereby access their records, and to assist if difficulties arise. For adults whose adoptions had no prior involvement with Adopters for Adoption, we will offer support and signpost enquirers to a more appropriate agency.
- Adoption support services may be commissioned by local authorities or by adoptive parents where Adopters for Adoption were not involved in making the placement. All such services will be subject to individual agreements as to the service required and fees payable.

11. Adoption Reviews

All approved adopters are subject to review. Approved adopters can choose to withdraw, or they may have their approval discontinued if their review is not satisfactory.

Adopters for Adoption will review adopters in the following circumstances:

- Every 12 months until a child or children is placed with them.
- A placement disruption.
- If a complaint or allegation is made against them.
- Where there is a major change in circumstances e.g. relationship breakdown.
- Death of a child in their care.
- At the adopter's request.

Each review usually takes place in the home of the approved adopters with their Social Worker. Sometimes a second Social Worker may be present to chair. Notes from these meetings are submitted to our Adoption Panel for review. The Agency Decision Maker for the agency makes the final decision.

What is discussed at the Adoption Review

- The date of the last medical
- The date of the last DBS check (renewed every 3 years)
- Changes in circumstances such as health, relationship, accommodation and finances
- Contact and support from the agency
- Children who have been considered since approval or last review
- Training and group meetings attended
- Whether the age range of children being considered is still relevant
- Any action required to facilitate a successful link with a child
- Is adoption still part of the approved adopters' plan?
- Birth or adoptive children's views (if applicable)
- Feedback and any other comments by the adopters



12. Termination of Approval

If after any review the agency no longer feel satisfied that an adopter is suitable to adopt:

- In this situation, adopters will have had an opportunity to discuss the recommendation prior to the Panel meeting with their social worker and/or the agency's Head of Service.
- The Social Worker will ensure that the adopters are made aware of their right to appeal against the decision, both to the Agency, and to the Independent Review Mechanism.
- A recommendation that their approved status be terminated will be presented to the Agency Decision Maker, including the reasons for that recommendation.



13. Post Adoption Support and Services

Adopters for Adoption is committed to providing quality Post Adoption Support to adoptive parents and adopted children.

Adopters for Adoption can provide consultations and assessments to Local Authorities, tailoring packages and services that will assist with the needs of the adoptive parents and child or children.

Adopters for Adoption can work alongside the Local Authority to source an appropriate therapy service to help increase and develop attachments, and to support families in meeting the therapeutic and development needs of children. We aim to provide a safe and quality service to adoptive families nationwide.

14. Safer, Stronger Adoptive Families 14 week Programme

In 2017 Adopters for Adoption were delighted to secure funding from the Department for Education to pilot a therapeutic parenting programme for Adoptive families called Safer Stronger Adoptive Families (SSAF). This programme has since been evaluated, updated based on findings and is now eligible for funding through the Adoption Support Fund.

Delivered over 14 weekly sessions with three follow up calls to support families to implement changes over a further 12 week period, this programme gives families 6 months' worth of skills based, practical, tailored intervention.

This programme includes:

- Effective, practical therapeutic parenting programme
- Structured yet personalised post adoption support
- Triple P® trained Support Workers
- Group and 1:1 sessions with parents and children in their home, at times to suit them
- Dynamic Family Action Plan
- Outcomes Star™ and Parenting Scale© improvement measures

We will use our experience and knowledge to work alongside families and help them become safer and

stronger. As a result of the programme, families can experience increased stability, resilience and 'normality'. This can create the additional benefit of providing a platform from which further therapy or support can be undertaken where necessary.

Safer, Stronger Adoptive Families 14 Week Programme Overview



How can we even thank you enough for all you have done. You have brought our family back together and we will thank you forever.
~ SSAF Adoptive Parent

15. Monitoring and Evaluation

Systems are in place to continually monitor and evaluate all of the services we provide to ensure that they are effective and of an appropriate and high standard:

- All of the records kept are regularly monitored by the manager to ensure compliance with the agency's policies, to identify any concerns, patterns or trends.
- Dashboards are in place to ensure timescales are adhered to.
- The agency maintains a record of all notifiable and critical incidents as well as complaints and compliments received.
- All adoption support programmes have outcomes that are tracked and recorded.
- The Professional Development Review process for staff ensures we constantly evaluate capability to improve services.
- Any complaints received are addressed through the Representation and Complaints Procedure to inform service development.
- Feedback forms are provided on a regular basis to those receiving or commissioning a service.
- We record and evaluate the reasons for individuals that decide that they do not wish to proceed with their interest in adoption at enquiry stage to inform our recruitment programme.
- Prospective adopters who have attended preparation and training groups complete evaluation forms. These evaluation forms are used to inform the assessment and identify areas of support.
- We provide a questionnaire to prospective adopters and social workers following their attendance at panel and use the information gained to inform the continuing development of the panel process.
- Quality Assurance feedback forms are completed by panel members on all prospective adopter reports that are presented to panel and scrutinised by the agency to inform service improvement.
- A Board of Directors oversees governance of the Voluntary Adoption Agency (VAA). The Board holds quarterly meetings to review management information including risk logs, financial information, service activity (e.g. pipeline of prospective adopters, lead times) and progress towards outcomes. This enables them to monitor performance against targets and take corrective action, where required.
- The business plan and Statement of Purpose are reviewed annually and informed by the evaluation of services.

16. Summary of the Complaints Procedure

All users of the agency's are advised of their right to make a representation or complaint about the services they have received. They are issued with the Adopters for Adoption Representation and Complaints leaflet. Children and young people are issued with information about their right to complaint within our 'Complaints Guide for Children and Young People'.

1: Informal Complaints

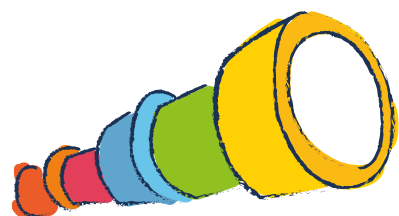
These are referred to the agency's Head of Service. We meet with the complainant with a view of resolving their complaint with an informal and problem solving approach. Informal complaints are responded to within 10 or (by agreement with the complainant) a maximum of 20 working days, of the complaint being made and an outcome letter sent to the complainant. The complainant is informed of their right to make a formal complaint if they are dissatisfied with the outcome at Stage One.

2: Formal Complaints - Independent investigation

When a formal complaint is received these are referred to Adopters for Adoption Complaints Manager who co-ordinates an independent investigation. Stage Two investigations are usually completed within 20 working days of meeting the complainant (the complainant will be kept informed if the investigation is likely to exceed these timescales). The Complaints Manager will inform the complainant of the outcome of the investigation at Stage Two and their right of appeal.

3: Appeal Stage - Complaints Review Panel

The Complaints review panel consists of an Executive Director from the agency, another Senior Manager who has no connection with the complaint and a relevant independent person. The independent investigators report will be provided to panel members along with any other supporting documents. The complainant will be invited to attend panel to make their representations. Panel will make an initial response to the complainant within 24 hours and provide a written response within 5 working days together with information about Ofsted if they remain dissatisfied. Complainants are also entitled to submit a complaint to Ofsted, contact details follow.



17. Core Aims & Availability of the Statement of Purpose

This Statement of Purpose sets out the core aims of Adopters for Adoption Voluntary Adoption agency, as required by the:

- Adoption Agencies (England) Regulations 2005
- Adoption National Minimum Standards 2014
- Care Standards Act 2000
- VAA and the Adoption Agencies Misc Amendments Regs 2003 as amended by the Voluntary Adoption Agencies (Amendments) Regulations 2005
- The Adoption Agencies (Misc Amendments) Regulations 2013
- Statutory Guidance on Adoption 2014
- The Data Protection Act 1998

It is reviewed and updated annually, or more frequently if there is a significant change

In addition this Statement of Purpose aims to meet the requirements and expectations of:

- SCIFF 2018
- The Children & Social Work Act 2017
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- The Adoption & Children Act 2002 and associated regulations and guidance
- The Adoption Act 1976
- The Children Act 1989
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The Children & Adoption Act 2006
- The Children & Young Persons Act 2008
- The Children Act 2004
- Equality Act 2006 and 2010
- The Family Procedure (Adoption) Rules 2010
- The Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- The National Care Standards Commission (Registration) Regulations 2001 – England – as amended by the National Care Standards Commission (Registration) Amendment Regulations 2003 and the Adoption Support Agencies (England) and Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2005
- The Family Procedure (Adoption) Rules 2005
- The Restrictions on the Preparation of Adoption Reports Regulations 2005
- Adopted Children and Adoption Contact Registers Regulations 2005
- The Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003 as amended by the Local Authority Adoption Service (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
- The Suitability of Adopters Regulations 2005
- The Adoption Support Services Regulations 2005 as amended by the Adoption Support Agencies (England) and Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2005
- The Disclosure of Adoption Information (Post-Commencement Adoptions) Regulations
- The Independent Review of Determinations (Adoption) Regulations 2009
- The Adoption Agencies and Independent Review of Determinations (Amendment) Regulations 2011
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review and Fostering Services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013
- The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families
- Availability and Distribution of The Statement of Purpose
- All adopters approved by Adopters for Adoption will receive the Statement of Purpose on receipt of our enquiry pack
- Placing Authorities will be issued with a copy of the document at the point of enquiry.
- Prospective placing Authorities will receive the information at the point of enquiry in respect of a placement
- The Statement of Purpose will be available upon request to children who may be adopted, or adopted persons, their parents and guardians, and persons wishing to adopt, and any local authority
- It will also be available for download on our website (see below)
- The principles of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR)
- The Health and Social Care Act 2012

Availability and Distribution of The Statement of Purpose

The Statement of Purpose will be available upon request to children who may be adopted, or adopted persons, their parents and guardians, and persons wishing to adopt, and any local authority.

It will also be available for download on our website (see below).

For further information about our services, please visit our website:
www.adoptersforadoption.com

18. Name, address and telephone number of the registration authority

Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate,
Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD
T: 0300 123 1231
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Upon request arrangements can be made for the Statement of Purpose to be translated, explained or produced in a different format as required.





