



Information Pack

Transform a child's life...

Updated March 2018



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I Welcome

Welcome to our information booklet about adoption. We hope it gives a clear overview of the journey ahead and the opportunity to transform a child's life through adoption.

Our first consideration in adoption is the welfare of the child and therefore our main aim in recruiting adopters has to be to find safe, suitable families.

We need people who can adopt babies, toddlers, older children, brothers and sisters, and children of all ages with disabilities or additional needs.

Being a parent to a child who has not been born to you gives an extra dimension to family life, and you will need plenty of understanding, energy, time, commitment and love. This is more important than whether you are married, single, divorced or widowed, with children of your own, step children or childless, working or not working, a home owner or a tenant. If you are enquiring as a couple wishing to adopt, you must have lived together for a minimum of 3 years.

Each child has his or her own individual and unique set of circumstances. Some children will have suffered neglect or abuse and all will have suffered separation from family members and experienced uncertainty within their lives.

Each child has an individual character and they need and deserve an opportunity to be loved within a secure family unit. We know from experiences of working with adoptive parents that the children bring joy, rewards and a sense of achievement and fulfilment to adoptive families.

If you wish to go to the next stage after you read this booklet, there is a short form for you to complete and return either online or by post - the initial visit form (located within this pack). We will then arrange to visit you for an initial discussion.



2 Myth busting

There are lots of myths about who can adopt. The reality is there is no such thing as a 'typical' or 'ideal' adoptive parent. Being a parent to a child who has not been born to you gives an extra dimension to family life.

You will need to have understanding, patience and commitment to the task; all those things which every parent should have. As a service we offer ongoing support and advice throughout the enquiry, assessment and matching process, and following the granting of an Adoption Order.

Adoption Tees Valley are looking for people who have something to offer to a child. This means you will probably be the sort of person who is flexible, adaptable, resilient, a good communicator and willing to develop new skills.

There are some things we do insist on, and we have to check in order to comply with the law. We must do all we can to make sure that children are safe. This means that if you apply, we will take up checks with the police and other agencies as well as interviewing personal referees. If you have a criminal record of offences against children, you will not be able to adopt. We cannot negotiate on this point - it is a piece of legislation with which we must comply.

You can adopt if...

- You are over the age of 21. There are no specific upper age limits to adoption. We need to be satisfied adopters are likely to remain fit and have the energy to meet the needs of a child through childhood into early adulthood. We will consider applicants' ages when matching with children and our primary concern is to ensure children's needs are met.
- You are married, single or living with a partner. If you are applying as a couple, you should have been living together for a minimum of 3 years. People who have been divorced can adopt.
- You are heterosexual, lesbian or gay - you will adopt jointly if you are in a co-habiting partnership.
- You are already a parent or have never been a parent before. If you have children of your own, living with you, with a previous partner, or independently, we will need to talk to them about their experiences of being parented by you and their feelings about your application to become an adoptive parent. We will do this in partnership with you.
- You are single. In some circumstances a single carer may be a preferred choice for a particular child.
- You do not have your own home or are not in employment. Often having two parents at home full-time can be an advantage. They can share the task of meeting the needs of a child who has had damaging earlier life experiences. In certain situations, adopters may be eligible to receive an adoption allowance if the child has complex needs.
- You are from any religious background. You may practice your religion or not, or you may have no religious beliefs.

Also, you will need to consider:

- You need to be able to evidence that you are financially secure (although money is not a driving force in adoption). However this does not include credit checks/ references.
- All adoptive parents need to have an open attitude to the child's birth family and past, and recognize the importance of this for the child who will have their own memories.
- If you are undergoing treatment for infertility we are willing to answer any queries you may have about adoption, but we will not normally consider an application from you. This is because experience shows the emotional demands of taking part in fertility treatment at the same time as considering adoption are too much for people to deal with. We will consider applications from couples who have completed their treatment and have had a period of adjustment prior to applying to be considered as adopters.

3 What is adoption?

Local Authorities look after children and young people who for a variety of reasons are unable to live with their own families. This may be due to a temporary family crisis, an illness or it could be because some form of abuse has taken place.

We believe the best type of care for children who are being looked after is in a family environment, so whenever possible, the children are placed with foster carers. Most children who are in foster care will return to their families, but for a small number this is not an option and they need a permanent substitute family.

Whenever possible, these children are placed for adoption, which means they become a full member of a new family and a legal order will be made transferring all parental responsibility for the child to the adopters.



4 Who are the children?

Children aged 0-4 years

Most children in this age range who need adoptive families have been looked after by a Local Authority for their own protection or welfare.

As with older children, their earlier experiences will have had an effect on them during those crucial first years when children are reliant on adults to meet all their physical and emotional needs in a stable, secure and loving environment.

Groups of brothers and sisters

There are groups of brothers and sisters who want to stay together. There can sometimes be as many as five siblings but more usually, two or three children who require an adoptive family. This can seem like a daunting task, but brothers and sisters placed together can help and support each other.

Older children

It is becoming increasingly challenging to place school aged children for adoption.

The children we are seeking adoptive families for will have experienced separation from their own families and the trauma associated with this. The circumstances which cause a child to be looked after are many and varied. Children who are looked after for months or years are likely to have emotional and behavioural problems because of the experiences which led to them being separated from their birth family.

Some children have had many moves in their short lives - in and out of foster homes, and back and forth from parents to relatives who frequently change address.

These moves have a damaging effect upon a child which can last a very long time, as they have no permanent parent figure in their lives. From the child's point of view 'what is the point of getting attached to someone who will disappear with the next move?'

Older children may find it difficult to become attached to a new family and may act-up and test-out their new parents, seeking the attention they have been missing.

Young children may behave more like babies at times and even teenagers may behave very much younger than their years. Once most children realise they are really part of their new family, they normally settle into family life.

Children with disabilities

Children with disabilities may be placed at a very young age when their parents feel unable to care for them. In some situations parents may have tried to cope and found they were unable to, which has resulted in the children being looked after by the Local Authority.

People who adopt a child with a disability will need to be prepared for a challenging yet rewarding task, and some of these children will never be able to live independently as adults.

Learning disabilities

There are many children with learning disabilities, both babies and older children. Some children have a clear diagnosis eg Down's Syndrome. Other children may have a learning disability as the result of injury when they were very young, which has affected their ability to learn. Some children have a disability where doctors are unable to give a clear diagnosis.

Physical disabilities

There are many types of physical disability eg spina bifida, cerebral palsy. Children with a physical disability may need to use wheelchairs, have specialist treatment etc, but increasingly people with physical disabilities are able to lead independent lives, especially with the support of a family.

Some children will have both a learning and physical disability. A child with a disability, like any other child, needs love and attention and the opportunity of family life.

Children with a variety of ethnic backgrounds

There are children from a great variety of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds waiting for adoption. They need families who match their culture, religion, ethnicity and language as closely as possible, or ones who will be able to help them understand their identity and be proud of it.

Examples of children who we have found families for (names have been changed).

Liam

Liam is 5 years old, he is an active, happy, cheerful and good-natured little boy. He has a wonderful infectious laugh. His pleasant nature does not fail to bring a smile to those around him. Liam is delightful and is easily amused. He loves playing with bubbles, books and nursery rhymes, and counting. He is happy around pets, and his foster carers have one large and one small dog, lizards and a tortoise. Liam is particularly gentle with the small pets, and he enjoys feeding them. He is used to a busy household, as his foster carers have adult and teenage birth and foster children living with them.



Ethan

Ethan is a 3 year old boy with a white British mother and a birth father whose ethnicity is unknown. Ethan has witnessed domestic violence between his parents and had significant developmental delay when he was first placed in foster care. There has been a massive improvement in his development due to his foster carers spending a lot of time playing with him and ensuring he has had lots of different stimulating experiences.



Emily

Emily is 14 months old and has grey brown eyes and a rosy complexion. She was born four weeks prematurely with significant but not life-threatening health issues which may be the cause of her developmental delay. Emily has ongoing feeding problems that are affecting her physical development. Investigations are ongoing regarding a chromosomal abnormality. Despite these issues she presents as a happy child who interacts well with children and adults. Her carer says that caring for her is positive and rewarding.



Lisa and Paul

Lisa and Paul are 3 and 4 years old. They are siblings who have always lived together. Lisa and Paul became looked after by the local authority soon after birth due to continued illicit substance misuse by both parents. Both children experienced symptoms of drug (heroin) withdrawal during the first few weeks of their lives. Since then they have thrived in foster care. They love dressing up and playing imaginary role play games. Lisa plays gentle games with her dolls and adores Peppa Pig. Paul enjoys racing around but can also entertain himself with puzzles and playing with Fireman Sam characters. Both children are bright and enthusiastic in their play together. They are chatty and friendly towards other children and adults.



Sean

Sean is a beautiful 6 month old baby boy who has dark eyes, light brown wispy hair and a contagious smile. Sean was placed with his current foster carers at 4 days old straight from hospital. Sean's half-sibling, who was adopted 2 years ago, experienced neglect by birth-Mother due to her unstable mental health and diagnosis of Schizophrenia. Since then, her mental state has deteriorated further. Sean's foster carers describe him as a gorgeous little boy who is very responsive, content and smiley. Sean loves to be cuddled and responds to a soft voice and face-to-face contact. In the morning he greets his carers with a big smile. Sean sleeps through the night and currently has three to four naps during the day. He loves to sleep with his fluffy blanket and dummy. He has a good routine, feeds well, and is about to be weaned onto solids. The foster carers say he is an easy baby to care for and is adorable.



5 The adoption process

There are three stages to an adoption application.

Enquiry stage - no time limit

At this stage you begin to think about adoption and approach First4Adoption or an Adoption Agency to find out more information.

Once you have decided on an agency you need to submit a registration of interest form. (The form for Adoption Tees Valley is included within this pack). Should you choose to complete this Initial Visit Form, an adoption Social Worker will contact you within five working days to discuss your enquiry and, if appropriate, they will arrange an initial visit to you in your home. This visit will be carried out by two adoption Social Workers and will involve gathering more detailed information about you and your circumstances. They will share further information with you about the adoption process, and will want to meet all members of your household.

We can also arrange at this stage for you to meet an experienced adopter, who can give you their perspective on adoption if you would find this helpful.

Should you wish to progress your enquiry after this initial visit, we will arrange a follow-up visit.

Stage 1 - guideline of 2 months

After the initial visit, you may make a formal application if we and you agree this is appropriate.

This will involve filling in a detailed application form. When we receive this form, we will undertake police, health checks and other Local Authority checks. We will also need from you the names of three personal referees, who we will then contact. If you already have a child/ren who are currently at school, we will ask the relevant person in the school to provide a reference about you as a parent of a school age child. Your employers will also be asked for a reference at this stage too.

You will need to identify a testamentary guardian for your adopted child. This is a person who would be in a position to care for your child permanently should you no longer be able to do so. We would also interview them during the adoption process. You will also need to have a medical examination carried out by your own doctor.

We will invite you to attend a preparation group. The group is held over 4 days. We will give you plenty of notice of the dates so you can arrange to attend. These groups take place at Adoption Tees Valley, Stockton-on-Tees. They are hosted by members of Adoption Tees Valley with contributions from people who have already adopted, adults who were adopted as children, experienced foster carers and other relevant people.

The preparation groups are designed to introduce you to the needs of the children who need adopting and the demands and rewards of making them part of your family. These sessions are an important part of the preparation and assessment process and we expect all applicants to attend. This requirement can only be waived in exceptional circumstances, with the agreement of the Team Manager of Adoption Tees Valley.

Stage 2 - generally no longer than 4 months, but can be extended to 6 months if necessary

If the checks are satisfactory and after you have attended the group, you will be asked to confirm you wish to proceed with your application. Having signed the necessary paperwork, you will then be entered into stage 2, where you will be referred to as a prospective adopter.

The Social Worker will draw up with you a Stage 2 Assessment Plan. This plan details dates for meeting you to undertake your assessment. It includes the date we anticipate your assessment can be completed by, and agree any further training or research you may need to do. This plan is drawn up with you so that you can fully contribute to it.

We will then carry out a series of visits to your home. There will be joint and individual meetings and all members of your household will be involved at some point. We will need to get to know you and your family well enough to be able to make a recommendation about whether you have got what it takes to parent an adopted child. The assessment covers your past and current circumstances and will include the following elements:

- Family and environment factors
- Family background and early life experiences
- Family of origin
- Significant relationships
- Educational experiences
- Employment
- Health
- Relationships and support networks
- Home finance
- Lifestyle
- Your motivation to adopt and expectations of adoption
- How well you understand the needs of adopted children and your parenting capacity.



The Social Worker will also visit and interview up to four personal referees identified by you. An assessment report which is called a Prospective Adopters Report (PAR) is written up and an analysis will be made of all of the above.

You will see this report and be asked to comment upon it in terms of factual information and whether you want to make any other comments.

The adoption application process is a combination of checks, references, assessment and preparation. It may feel a bit intrusive at times but it is necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the children who need families. We also aim to make it relevant, useful and interesting.

The completed report will be presented to the Adoption Tees Valley Panel who will consider it and make a recommendation about whether you should be approved.

You will be invited to attend the meeting when your application is presented. The panel comprises a panel chair, a panel advisor and then approximately five other members including a medical advisor, an adopter, a council member and a social work professional.

Agency decision

The final decision about your approval is made by the Service Manager of Adoption Tees Valley, based on the recommendation of the Family Placement Panel.

If it is decided you are suitable to adopt, you will be informed verbally by your assessing Social Worker within 2 days and written to formally by the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) within seven days.

If it is decided you are not suitable to adopt you have the right to request an independent review by the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM). We must provide a letter detailing the full reasons for the decision. You then have 28 working days to apply to the IRM or to make representations to Adoption Tees Valley. You can find more about this process at

www.independentreviewmechanism.org.uk

Matching

You are very much part of decision-making once you are approved. The process of matching you to the right child or children will begin after you have been approved as adopters. Your Social Worker will help in this process by following up possibilities and discussing them with you if appropriate. Your Social Worker will be aware of any children whose plan is adoption, who are Looked After by Local Authorities in Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Hartlepool and Darlington.

Your Social Worker may consider links from other adoption agencies, both in the northern region through a regional consortium and further afield through Adoption Match and Link Maker.

If your Social Worker gets details of a child who seems like a good match for you, and the child's Social Worker also feels it is a good match, we will give you a lot of information about the child to read and think about.

You will normally meet the child's Social Worker on more than one occasion and also meet the foster carers who are currently caring for the child. You will want to check the child is right for you and the Social Worker will want to check you are right for the child. It is important everybody gets things right at this stage and you should not go ahead unless you are sure it is right. At this stage, if appropriate to do so, you may meet the child briefly. We call these meetings with the child 'chemistry visits'. This allows you to be completely sure this match is correct and the chemistry between you and the child feels right.

Once everyone agrees the match is suitable, the next stage is to get formal approval from the Agency with responsibility for the child. We prepare with you an Adoption Placement Report and Adoption Support Plan which outlines your suitability to be matched with the particular child/ren and the proposal for any support.

These reports are submitted to the Panel for a recommendation and then to the Agency Decision Maker for a decision. Once this decision has been made, we will meet with you to draw up an Adoption Placement Plan and plan the introduction phase.

It is difficult to predict how long the introductions will take - a lot depends on the age of the child and the distances involved. Your Social Worker will keep in touch with you throughout the process to give you the support you need.

Once the child has been placed, you begin the process of adjusting to being a family unit. It is not unusual for there to be a 'honeymoon' period followed by a period where the child will test you out. You will get support from the child's Social Worker and from your Social Worker during this stage. The child will remain a Looked After Child, which means the child and yourselves will still have regular visits and reviews.

When everyone agrees the placement is working well, you can apply to the court to adopt the child. The court will consider a report about you and the child, before making a decision to grant an Adoption Order. The child has to live with you for at least 10 weeks before this can happen. Once an Adoption Order is made, the child is legally part of your family and you will have all the rights and responsibilities for the child that the birth parent had. The Local Authority who previously looked after the child will continue to share the parental responsibility for the child with his/her birth parents until the granting of an Adoption Order. It is at this point you then acquire full parental responsibility for the child.

Adoption has lifelong implications for everyone involved. Many adopters just want to get on with family life in the same way that most other families in the community do. However, some adopters need ongoing support and others may need a short period of support from time to time. Adoption Tees Valley are committed to providing post-adoption support as and when needed.

6 Adoption support

Support to yourselves comes from many different sources and will be tailor-made to your particular needs.

The following is an example of the support available.

- **Social Work Visits**

Once you become an approved adopter your Social Worker will keep in regular touch with you and your family. The Social Worker will, alongside you, consider details of children available for adoption and identify any potential matches.

- **Support Group**

You will be invited to attend support groups either via ourselves or by After Adoption. This will give you opportunity to meet with people who are in a similar position to you.

- **Training Events**

You will be invited to attend relevant training events run by Adoption Tees Valley and After Adoption.

- **After a Child is Placed**

You will continue to receive support from your Social Worker as well as the Social Worker who knows the child.

- **Financial Support**

Becoming a parent through adoption - like any parenting - is a costly business. You therefore need to take into account the financial responsibility alongside the other changes you are making in your life. If you are considering leaving work you may wish to explore with your employer how much adoption leave, paid and unpaid, you are entitled to.

The current legislation allows us to offer financial support dependent on assessment of the child's needs and your financial circumstances.

There are various ways we can help and financially support you and this aspect will be considered with you at different points of the process.

Ways in which we can help may include:

- A one-off payment to contribute towards purchasing essential equipment during the early stages of a child's placement.
- Paying reasonable expenses associated with the introduction process, eg travel costs including fuel, bus and train fares, and flights, as well as relevant accommodation costs up to a maximum of £80 per night.
- The costs associated with direct contact with a child's birth family after adoption.

- In some circumstances, you may also be eligible for an ongoing payment. This allowance is paid according to legal regulations and we have, by law, to take into account the needs of the child and the financial circumstances of the adopters. This allowance will be means-tested and reviewed annually.
- Reimbursement of the court fee for the adoption application.
- A settling in grant of £250 per child.

This potential financial support will be discussed further with you throughout the assessment and matching process.

- **In the Future**

At any time after adoption you can approach us to undertake an assessment of your adoption support needs. Adoption Tees Valley is responsible for adoption support for 3 years after the child is adopted, after which time the local authority/regional adoption agency in which you live will take on this responsibility.

Adoption Support Services Adviser

Every adoption agency has an Adoption Support Services Advisor who can be contacted and will help you by either signposting you to the most appropriate person or arranging for someone to visit you. In Adoption Tees Valley, you can contact the Adoption Support Services Adviser via email info@adoptionteesvalley.org.uk

The Adoption Passport

Inside this information pack you will also find a leaflet entitled 'The adoption passport - a support guide for adopters'. This explains some of the services that adopters are entitled to.

All adopters are entitled to:

- An assessment of adoption support needs.
- Counselling guidance and information about adoption.
- An opportunity to attend support groups.



7 Fostering for adoption

So what is Fostering for adoption? Fostering for adoption places a child during the period of temporary local authority care with foster carers who are also approved as adopters. If the court agrees that the child should be adopted and the adoption agency approves the 'match' between the carers as adopters and the child, the placement becomes an adoption placement.

Fostering for adoption has obvious advantages for the child:

- ♥ They are placed with carers who may become their adopters
- ♥ It avoids the damage caused by ending temporary foster care relationships which they will have experienced as their primary parenting relationship
- ♥ It allows the early months and years of the child's life to be what most children need and expect.

Each of these advantages is true for the adopters as well. It may be that some birth parents will understand these advantages for their child as well, even if their intention is to prove that they can take care of the child themselves. It must be remembered that until the court decides that adoption is right for the child, the parents' case remains to be decided.

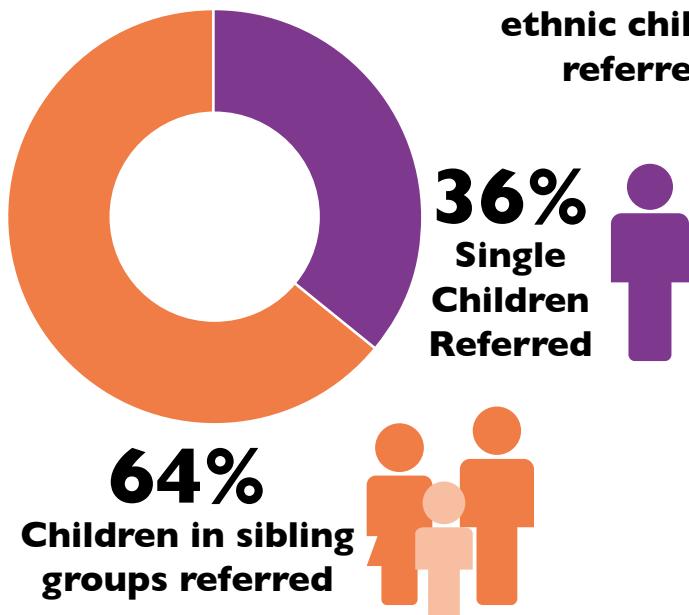
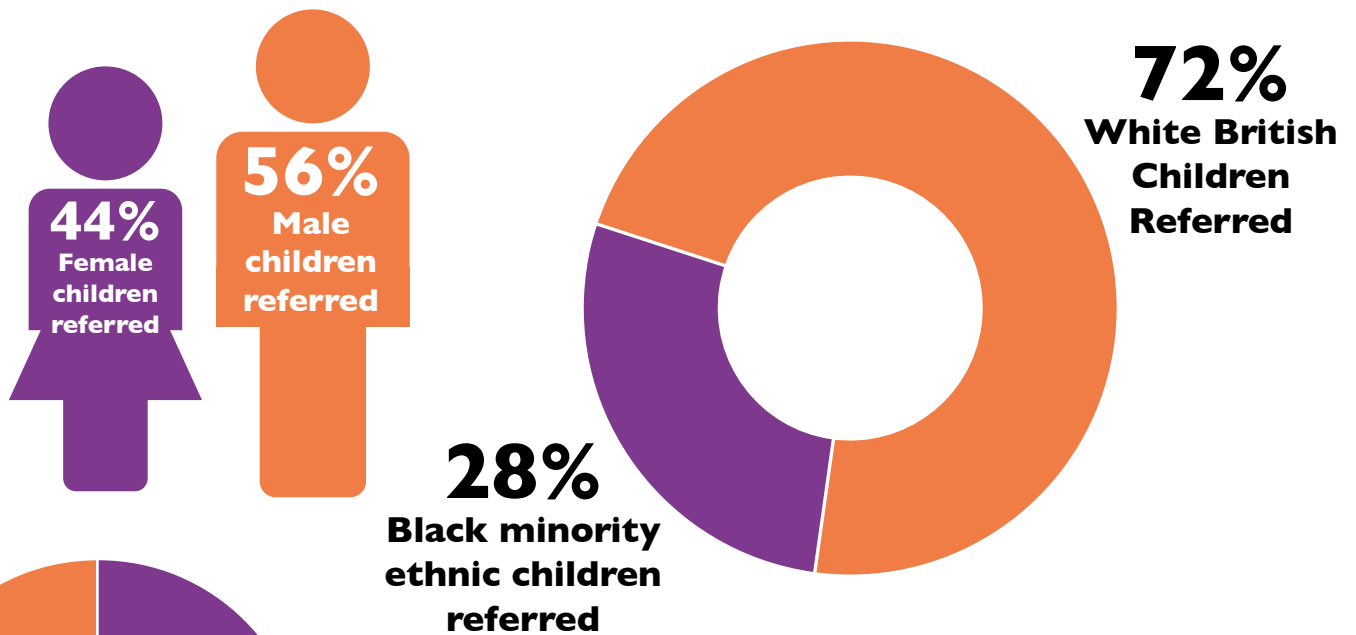
Why not place the new child directly for adoption? The child can be placed directly with adopters if the parents give their legally authorised consent and no other family member has expressed interest in caring for the child. However, in most situations consent is not given. It is then for the court, and only the court, to decide whether the child can be placed for adoption. The local authority cannot act in any way that predicts the outcome of the court's decision and that includes finding and agreeing an adoption placement. The local authority must place the child with foster carers until the court's decision is made.



8 The context

To give you an overview of adoption in the UK, there were 1387 children referred to the Adoption Register for England in 2016/17. A profile of these children is shown below.

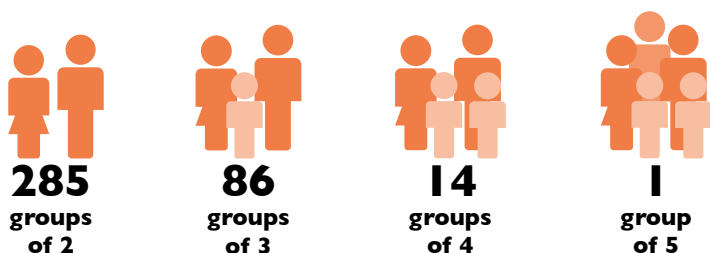
1387 Children referred by agencies in England



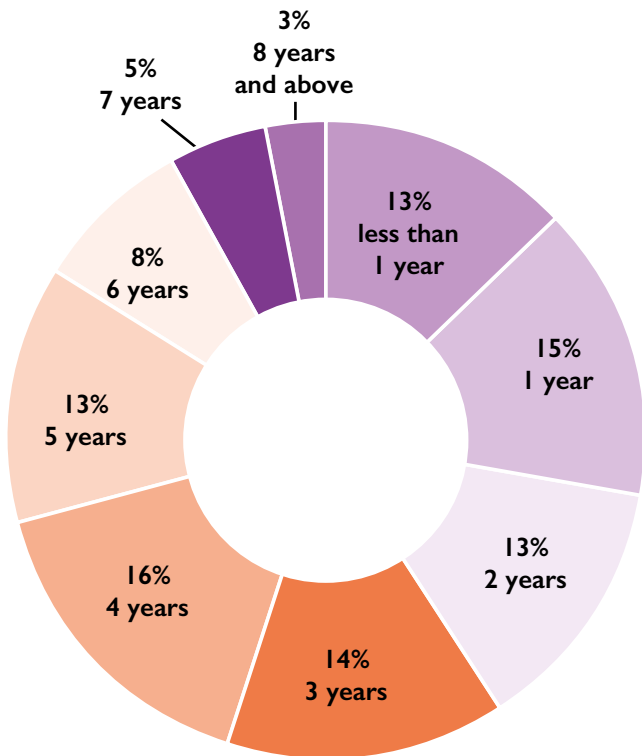
BME children referred

Arab	2
Bangladeshi	6
Black African	29
Black Asian	2
Black Caribbean	27
Indian	5
Pakistani	1
Turkish	1
White and Asian	41
White and Black African	35
White and Black Caribbean	109
White Other	55
Any other Asian background	4
Any other Black background	16
Any other ethnic group	11
Any other Middle Eastern background	2
Any other mixed background	42

Siblings were referred in...



Age range of children at referral



68%



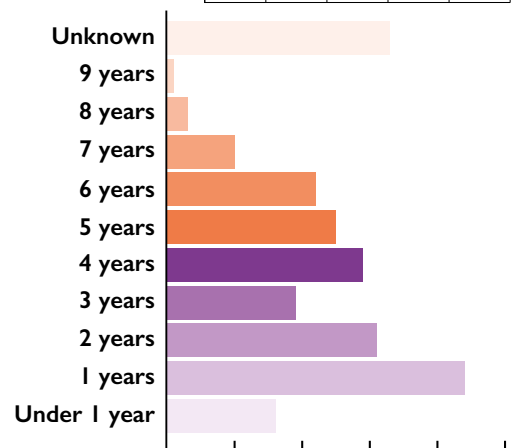
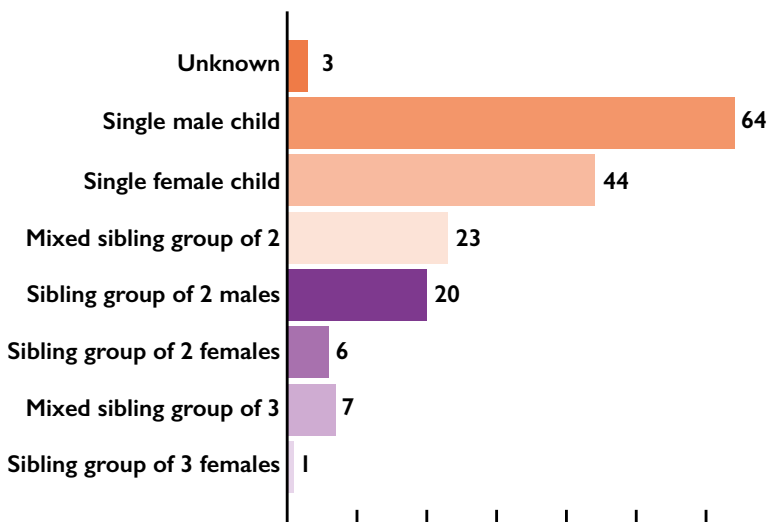
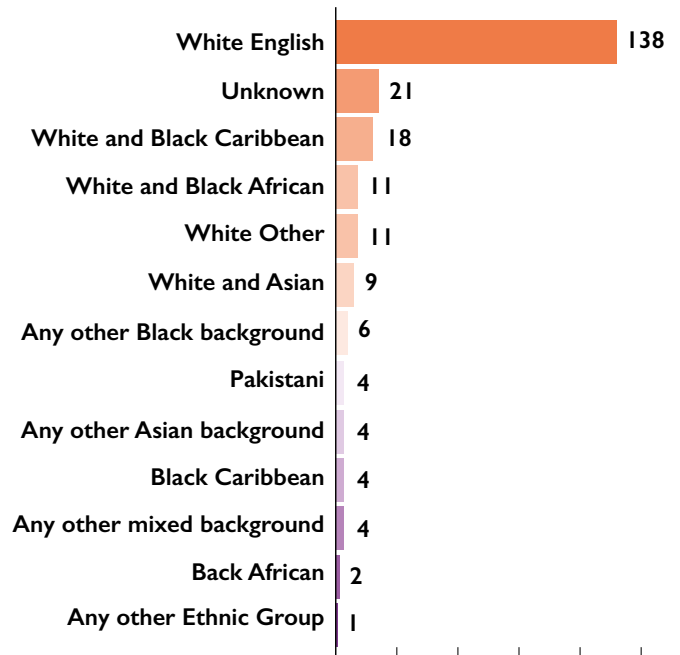
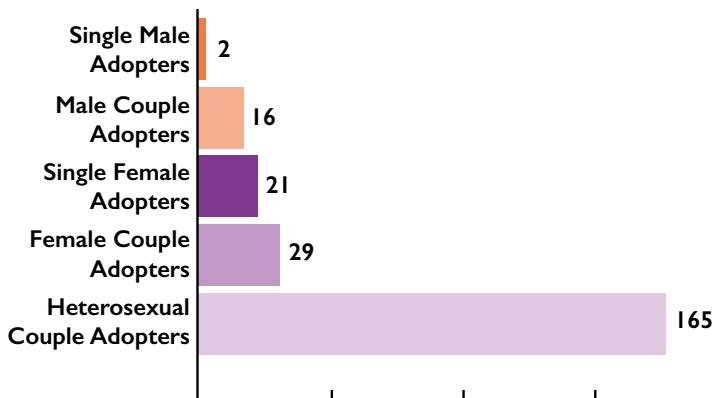
Autumn 2017

of children waiting for adoption in the North East are in sibling groups

233

Children matched by the register

A total of 233 matches were made between children and adopters. The profile of these matches is shown below.



Please note, in instances where a match is identified at an exchange day, by an adopter identified by Adoption Match, but where the child has not yet been referred to the register, we are sometimes missing background information on that child. The details are then recorded as unknown.

9 Further information

First4 Adoption

Visit the website at www.first4adoption.org.uk

Contact the helpdesk via email at helpdesk@first4adoption.org.uk

Or call 0300 222 0022

CoramBAAF

Visit the website at www.corambaaf.org.uk

Or call 0300 222 5775

Adoption UK

www.adoptionuk.org

Or call the helpline on 07904 793 974

New Family Social (lesbian and gay adopters)

Visit the website at www.newfamilysocial.org.uk

Or call 0843 289 9457



Further reading for adoptive parents

- 'Adopters on Adoption - Reflections on Parenthood & Children' by D Howe - BAAF 1996 - ISBN 1-873868-32-4
- 'Adopting or Fostering a Sexually Abused Child' by C Macaskill - Batsford 1993 - ISBN 0-7134-6760-6
- 'Adopting the Hurt Child - Hope for Families with Special Needs Kids' by G Keck and R Kupecky - Pinon Press 1995 - ISBN 1-57683-094-2
- 'Afro Hair and Skin Care + Recipes' - Commission for Racial Equality 1976
- 'Approaching Fatherhood - A Guide for Adoptive Dads and Others' by P May - BAAF 2005 - ISBN 1-903699-65-7
- 'Bruised Before Birth - Parenting Children Exposed to Parental Substance Abuse' by J McNamara - BAAF 1994 - ISBN 1-873868-17-0
- 'Building the Bonds of Attachment - Awakening Love in Deeply Troubled Children' by D Hughes - Jason Aronson Inc. 1998 - ISBN 0-7657-0237-1
- 'Children Exposed to Parental Substance Misuse – Implications for Family Placement' ed. R Phillips - BAAF 2004 - ISBN 1-903699-27-4
- 'Children's Adjustment to Adoption' - Developmental and Clinical Issues' by D Brodzinsky, D Smith and A Brodzinsky - Sage Publications 1998 - ISBN 0-7619-0516-2
- 'Contact in Adoption and Permanent Foster Care - Research, Theory and Practice' ed. E Neil and D How - BAAF 2004 - ISBN 1-903699-60-6
- 'Explaining Adoption to your Adopted Child. A Guide for Adoptive Parents' by P Chennells - BAAF 1987 - ISBN 0-93534-71-1
- 'First Steps in Parenting the Child who Hurts - Tiddlers and Toddlers' by C Archer - Jessica Kingsley Publishers 1999 - ISBN 1-85302-801-0
- 'Fostering & Adoption by Lesbians and Gay Men' ed. J Skeates and D Jabri - London Strategic Policy Unit 1988.
- 'Lesbian and Gay Fostering and Adoption – Extraordinary Yet Ordinary' E. S Hicks and J McDermott – Jessica Kingsley Publishers 1999 – ISBN 1-85302600-X
- 'Loving and Living with Traumatized Children – Reflections by Adoptive Parents' by M Hirst - BAAF 2005 – ISBN 1-903699-67-3
- 'New Parents for Older Children' by J Tresader and D Quinton – BAAF Discussion Series 10 1988 - ISBN 0-903534-79-9
- 'Next Steps in Parenting the Child who Hurts - Tykes & Teens' by C Archer - Jessica Kingsley Pubs. For Adoption UK 2000 - ISBN 1-85302-802-9

- 'PACE (Parent Assertiveness using Consequences with Empathy) - A Handbook of Strategies for Parents of Children with an Attachment disorder' by C Munroe et al.
- 'Promoting Resilience - A Resource Guide on Working with Children in the Care System' by R Gilligan - BAAF 2001 - ISBN 1-873868-92-8
- 'Related by Adoption - A Handbook for Grandparents and other Relatives' by H Argent - BAAF 2004 - ISBN 1-903699-39-8
- 'Safe Contact? - Children in Permanent Placement & Contact with their Birth Relatives' – Russell House Publishing 2002 - ISBN 1-903855-09-08
- 'Talking About Adoption To Your Child' by M Morrison - BAAF 1998 - ISBN 1-9036989-52-5





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