



Fostering for Adoption

What is Fostering for Adoption?

It is important that the right adoptive parents are identified for a child as quickly as possible. Over the past few years, there has been concern that children are waiting longer due to systems currently in place. Fostering for Adoption is a way in which to reduce the wait for children as they can be placed with a family from a much younger age.

Fostering for Adoption enables the Local Authority to place a child with approved adopters, under temporary fostering arrangements. Approved adopters will also be approved as temporary foster carers, to enable the child to move straight to a potential adoptive placement rather than being placed short term with foster carers. When the case returns to court, the court makes a decision on whether the child should be adopted. If the court agrees that the child should be adopted, the placement then changes to an adoptive placement.

Which children are placed in a Fostering for Adoption placement?

Typically, Fostering for Adoption is used with new born babies where there is a history of social care involvement with older children and no changes have been made by the birth family. The local authority pre-empt the court's decision and are confident that a child will not be returned to the birth family. Before the decision is made that a child should be placed in a Fostering for Adoption placement, the Local Authority needs to ensure that:

- ♥ A thorough and up to date assessment is completed on the birth parents, which shows that they cannot meet the child's needs
- ♥ Any potential family and friends have been identified and assessed to ascertain whether they can care for the child
- ♥ The paternity of the child is confirmed or there are no questions about this
- ♥ Adoption is the right and most realistic option for the child

What are the positives of Fostering for Adoption?

- ♥ A child is placed in a family much younger, where it is hoped they will stay into adulthood
- ♥ Children do not experience the loss of carers who may have cared for them from birth
- ♥ Children begin to develop early and healthy attachments from an earlier stage
- ♥ Adopters can have the opportunity to parent a baby
- ♥ A Fostering Allowance is paid

What are the risks and challenges of Fostering for Adoption?







- ♥ There is uncertainty until the courts have decided the child can be adopted. If a birth family member can care for the child, then the child may be moved back to birth family
- ♥ As most Fostering for Adoption placements are new born babies, there may not be a full understanding of any genetic or medical issues. There will also not be a photograph provided when being asked to consider a child
- ♥ Whilst fostering, the role is different to an adoptive parent and fostering regulations must be adhered to
- ♥ As the birth parents still hold parental responsibility, contact between the child and birth parents may be a number of times a week and carers must seek permission in relation to decisions about a child as they do not hold parental responsibility



What does the fostering role involve?

As mentioned previously, until the court makes the decision that a child can be adopted with the making of a Placement Order, the prospective adoptive parents will be foster carers.

The expectations of this role include:

-  Looked after child reviews within the home; 28 days after placement and then after 3 months
-  Visits from the child's social worker, the fostering social worker and the adoption social worker
-  The child to be taken to contact with the birth parents, often 2 or 3 times a week. As the placement is confidential, carers would usually meet a contact supervisor nearby for them to transport to contact
-  To keep the birth parents up to date on the child's progress through a communication book which is passed between at contact
-  Carers hold no parental responsibility for a child and would need to seek the Local Authority's permission for things
-  To maintain a daily log of the child's progress

These expectations can place a high demand on day to day life and need to be carefully considered

If you would like to find out more about Fostering for Adoption, please contact the office on 0115 955 8811 or email enquiries@faithinfamilies.org and speak to one of social workers.

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