

3. The process following placement of the child through to the Adoption Order

You will need to liaise with a range of people prior to and following the child joining you in your home, which may include:

- a) Your extended family: they need to understand that you and the child need time together to build the relationship before introducing new people;
- b) your GP, Health Visitor or specialist medical resources;
- c) your local school;
- d) the child's foster carers;
- e) the child's birth family;
- f) regular visits and telephone calls by the child's social worker and your social worker.

The child's social worker has a duty to monitor the placement and to ensure the child's needs are being met. Meetings will be held periodically to review how the placement is progressing.

It will be at one of these meetings that the decision to apply for an Adoption Order is made.

Your social worker will help you complete the relevant forms to send to the local court. You will be notified of a date when the Order will be made in front of a judge.

Who attends Court?

You and your social worker, the child, the child's social worker and anyone else you wish to attend, e.g. grandparents.

Most adopters make this a day of celebration, which usually involves a meal or party with all those closest to the family. It is a day which is celebrated each year.

Following the Adoption Order, you will continue to be informed of all the support services offered by the agency, including the adoption support group and relevant training courses for adopters.

This publication is available in large print, Braille or audio formats on request.

Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.

Please contact 01275 888 999



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Approved Prospective Adopters

A brief guide for adoptive parent applicants about what happens after approval?



posed by models

1. How you are matched with a child

Thinking about a specific child is one of the most difficult and stressful parts of the adoption process. Your social worker knows you well and will be able to fully discuss the child that you are considering.

Once approved, you may be considered for a child through a number of options.

- ◆ North Somerset Council, who place children for adoption.
- ◆ The South West Adoption Consortium (SWAC) – a collaboration between agencies in this region that aims to link children with families.
- ◆ The National Adoption Register, which does the same as SWAC, but on a national basis.
- ◆ By subscribing to publications, i.e. Be My Parent and Adoption Today, and telephoning about specific children advertised.

Your social worker will be able to tell you more about all these options and ensure that you are referred to them.

When you are being considered for a child, full written information will be exchanged. The child's social worker will read your home study report (Form F) and you and your social worker will read the child's report (Form E).

If the child's social worker decides not to proceed, we will try to find out why and let you know.

If you both decide to proceed, we will arrange for the child's social worker to visit you so that a fuller discussion can take place about the child and your family situation.

Sometimes the social worker may visit a number of families before making a choice about which family can best meet the child's needs. This can be very hard, but it is part of the process that you need to be prepared for.



Once it has been agreed that you may be a suitable family, you may wish to gather further information regarding medical, psychological or educational matters before deciding to proceed with a match.

The match is made through the Adoption Panel responsible for the child. All relevant reports are submitted and your social worker attends on your behalf. The panel then makes a recommendation to the agency, who is responsible for the decision.

2. The introduction process involved when being introduced to a particular child

Once it has been agreed that a child will be placed with you, a planning meeting will be convened. This involves a range of people who will be involved in the introduction process, e.g. you and your social worker, the child's foster carer and their social worker, the social worker for the child and their manager.

The purpose of this meeting is to draw up a plan for introductions that will allow you and the child to get to know each other and start to build relationships, and to make a contract (called Form H) that confirms the roles and responsibilities of those present.

There is no fixed timescale for introductions as this depends on many factors.

A review of how introductions are progressing will take place prior to a final decision that the child and you are ready for the child to move to your home.

First meetings are stressful for all those involved. Be honest with yourselves, talk to each other and your social worker about your response to the child, particularly if you have worries or concerns.