





Welcome to Aspire Adoption

Aspire is one of the first Regional Adoption Agencies to be set up in England, and provides adoption and special guardianship services for the local authorities of BCP Council (Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole) and Dorset Council. We work in partnership with Families for Children, a local Voluntary Adoption Agency.

Aspire is dedicated to finding permanent and loving homes for the many children who are unable to live with their birth families and consequently have a plan for adoption. Our children range from babies to toddlers through to school age children. They include brothers and sisters who need to grow up together, children from a range of different ethnicities and children with additional physical or emotional needs. What these children have in common is a difficult start in life and that they can no longer be brought up by their birth families.

The information in this booklet is designed to help you to decide whether adoption might be right for you. It will tell you about the children nowadays who need loving and stable homes. It will tell you about an adopter's journey and their experiences. It explains about the assessment process and the type of support and advice you can expect from us.

We welcome enquiries from those who live across the county of Dorset and from those further afield in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Devon and Somerset.

Working together to deliver Aspire Adoption Services



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What is adoption?

Adoption is a way of finding new families for children who are not able to live with their birth family.

Every child deserves a loving, stable family. For those children who cannot live with their birth families, it is vital that we find them permanent new homes as quickly as possible.

Adoption may be the only means of giving some children the opportunity to experience a happy, loving, family life. A child who is adopted becomes a permanent member of their new family and the adoptive parents take on full responsibility for bringing them up.

This arrangement is formalised by a legal process through the courts by means of an Adoption Order. From this point on, the child ceases to have any legal tie with the birth family. The child takes on their adoptive parent's last name and has the same rights as any birth child would in relation to the adopters.





Are you thinking of adopting?

You have probably been thinking about adoption for a while before you read this booklet. Here are some things to consider.

- Why do you want to adopt?
- Are you able to change your life and prioritise a child's needs?
- Do you not only have a place in your heart for a child, but also a place in your home?
- Can you help a child to thrive physically and emotionally when they have had a difficult start to their lives?
- Can you provide an emotionally and financially secure environment for a child?
- It is never easy bringing up a child, so do you have friends and family you can go to for advice, help and support when needed?

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You don't have to be in perfect health, you just have to be fit enough to look after a child.

Medical Adviser

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Who can adopt?

Adopters can come from any walk of life or background. The one thing that all adopters have in common is the desire to give a child a secure, loving and permanent home. We need all sorts of people with different skills and backgrounds to come forward to adopt, no matter what their gender, religion, ethnicity, marital status or sexuality is. No two children's needs are ever the same.

To adopt, you will need to be in good physical and mental health and able to nurture a child through to adulthood. You will need to have a home suitable for a child to grow up in. You will need to be able to promote your child's identity, including their cultural, racial and religious identity, their health and education, and provide opportunities for hobbies, interests and a social life.

You will need to give your adopted child lots of individual time and attention. Children who have had unmet physical and emotional needs early in life can be affected in the longer term and will need additional support and understanding. Your child will also need your ongoing support to help them understand about their birth family and why they were adopted.

In assessing adopters, we are looking for people who have patience and perseverance. People who are caring and understanding. People who are flexible, fun, full of energy, and able to give a lifetime commitment to a child. People with big hearts who can make a difference to a child's life, and in doing so, to their own.

Our commitment to you is to support you and your family every step of the way, and to treat you fairly and with respect throughout your involvement with us.



There are still many misconceptions about who can adopt.

I'm too old to adopt

You must be at least 21 years old to adopt but there is no upper age limit. You need to show that you have the health and energy to care for a child through to adulthood. Consideration will be given to your age comparative to the age of the child you want to adopt for example, younger children are more likely to be placed with younger adoptive parents.

I can't adopt because I'm gay

Your sexuality is not an issue. What's more important is that you have the qualities and understanding to parent a child who has experienced a difficult start in life. Aspire has experience of working with same sex adoptive families and we encourage you to get in touch with us for a discussion.

We welcome enquiries and applications from Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender adopters. Applications from transgender people are very welcome. We welcome adopters of any sexuality. Whatever your sexual orientation, you can still make such a positive difference to a child's life. Aspire Adoption are also proud members of New Family Social, a charity which supports LGBTQ+ adopters. Our transgender and other LGBTQ+ adopters are automatically offered the opportunity to become members for free.

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From the very first phone call enquiring about the adoption process to welcoming our daughter home, we were supported every step of the way. Although daunting at times, especially being a same sex couple, we were always treated with respect and professionalism. We will always be forever grateful for all their support and guidance. R & Y, adopters

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I already have children so won't be able to adopt

Having children of your own will not exclude you from adopting whether they live at home or have grown up. We welcome applications from families who have birth or adopted children already. If you do not have direct experience of caring for children, we ask you to gain some experience in caring for children during the assessment process, for example at a local pre-school, nursery, school or out of school activity.

I'm single so can't adopt

You don't have to be married or in a relationship to adopt. You can be single, in a civil partnership, living together or married. If you are in a relationship, we will need to explore with you how settled and stable your relationship is as part of the assessment.

I am disabled so won't be allowed to adopt

Having a disability does not automatically exclude you from adopting. It is recognised that disabled people can often provide a very loving home for a child. Disability is only one of many issues which we will consider so don't rule yourself out before talking to us. Our medical adviser will assess the information you provide, and your assessing social worker will explore any impact on how you will parent and how this could be managed. Living alongside disability can teach children the importance of being inclusive and how to value difference.

I can't adopt a child from a different religious or ethnic background

The best match for a child is not always with adopters of the same background. If you do adopt a child from a different background, you will need to be able to help your child understand the important cultural, religious or linguistic values of their birth community. For example, you may live in an area where there is a diverse population, or you may have family or friends who could help you to support a child to develop knowledge and understanding about their background.

I haven't got enough money to adopt

Your financial circumstances and employment status will be considered as part of the adoption assessment but people on a low income or on benefits are not automatically excluded from adopting. You can adopt if you own your own home or if you live in rented accommodation. You just need to demonstrate that you are financially stable and can support a child into adulthood. Children need space to thrive and develop through out their childhoods, and safe family environments to grow up within. There is no ideal house, we can explore a child's needs with you.

I am having infertility treatment but would like to be assessed as an adopter at the same time

The emotional and physical demands of pursuing medical investigations and fertility treatment can be great and we would therefore expect that these had come to an end before your adoption assessment commenced. For your own sake, we would suggest you wait for at least 6 months between the end of any tests or treatment and formally applying to become an adopter.



Can I adopt if I smoke and or vape?

We would not be able to accept an application from someone who smokes or where someone in the household smokes, and who wishes to adopt a child under the age of 5, or those with medical conditions. You will need to be smoke free for at least 6 months before you could be considered as an adopter.

I can't adopt because I have a criminal record

We undertake checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service on all of those aged 18 or over living in your household as part of the assessment. If you or a member of your household have a criminal caution or conviction for offences against children or certain sexual offences against adults, you will not be able to adopt, but, except for these specified offences, a criminal record will not necessarily rule you out. The key is to be totally honest in your application from the start. Unless it is an offence which automatically precludes you from adopting, we will consider what type of offence it was, when it was committed, the extent to which it has a bearing on you becoming a parent, whether it was revealed at the time of your application and how you have reflected on your past actions.

Who can't adopt?

There are certain automatic exclusions from adopting in England. They are as follows:

- To legally adopt in the UK, you must be over the age of 21
- You must be legally resident in the UK, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, and have been so for at least 12 months. UK citizens living abroad cannot adopt in the UK
- If you or a member of your household have a criminal conviction or caution for offences against children or for serious sexual offences, you will not be able to adopt
- There are many other factors that will come into consideration but none of them automatically exclude you.

More Questions?

You may have other questions about your eligibility to adopt. Our experienced team of adoption social workers will be happy to answer any questions you may have – no matter how small. Please call us today on 0300 123 9868



The children

There are all kinds of children, from a range of ages and backgrounds, who need an adoptive family, but the one thing that they all have in common is that they cannot be brought up within their birth family.

Most children who need adoptive families have been removed from their birth parents by the courts because their parents and wider families were unable to provide the care they need. This may be because they were neglected, physically or emotionally. They may have been living in a home where drug taking and alcohol misuse was common. Other children may have had to be removed from their birth family having witnessed violence within the home or because they were physically hurt themselves. Some children may need adoptive families because of their birth parents own needs, for example, because of their own mental health or significant learning disabilities. Occasionally it is necessary to look for an adoptive home for a baby whose mother has chosen adoption for her child, but this is quite rare. The one thing these children have in common is that they will have experienced loss and separation in their young lives, even when adopted as young babies.

Such troubled early lives and experiences will affect a child's behaviour in different ways. These children are likely to find it more difficult to form relationships. Some will display difficult behaviour; others may be quiet and withdrawn. They need the special qualities which adoptive parents can bring to their young lives to overcome the difficulties of their early lives.



The children most in need of a family of their own

Babies and toddlers

We need adopters for young babies and toddlers but the children most in need and waiting the longest to be adopted are brothers and sisters who need to be placed together, children over the age of 3, children with significant physical or learning needs or where there is developmental uncertainty, and children from different ethnic or cultural backgrounds.

Brothers and sisters

Over half of the children who need adoptive homes nowadays need to be placed with their brothers or sisters. Adopting a family group of two, three or even four children can seem very appealing if you wish to have a ready made family. It is important though to consider whether you have the space, time and most importantly, energy, to devote yourself to more than one child, all of whom will have different needs.

We are always looking for people who would consider adopting family groups of children, so if this is something you would like to know more about, please let us know.

Older children

Most prospective adopters start off thinking about adopting a child as young as possible. However, many of the children who wait longest to be placed are aged 3 and over and desperately need a family of their own to grow up in.

Children of that age need lots of love, care and attention, particularly as most have had a difficult start in life and several moves, maybe living with their birth families before going into foster care. But whatever age they are, they will still need their cuddles, and a story read to them. They will still need you to patch them up when they fall over or are ill.

They are the children we need to place for adoption quickly, as already too much of their childhood has been lost. Could you consider an 'older' child?

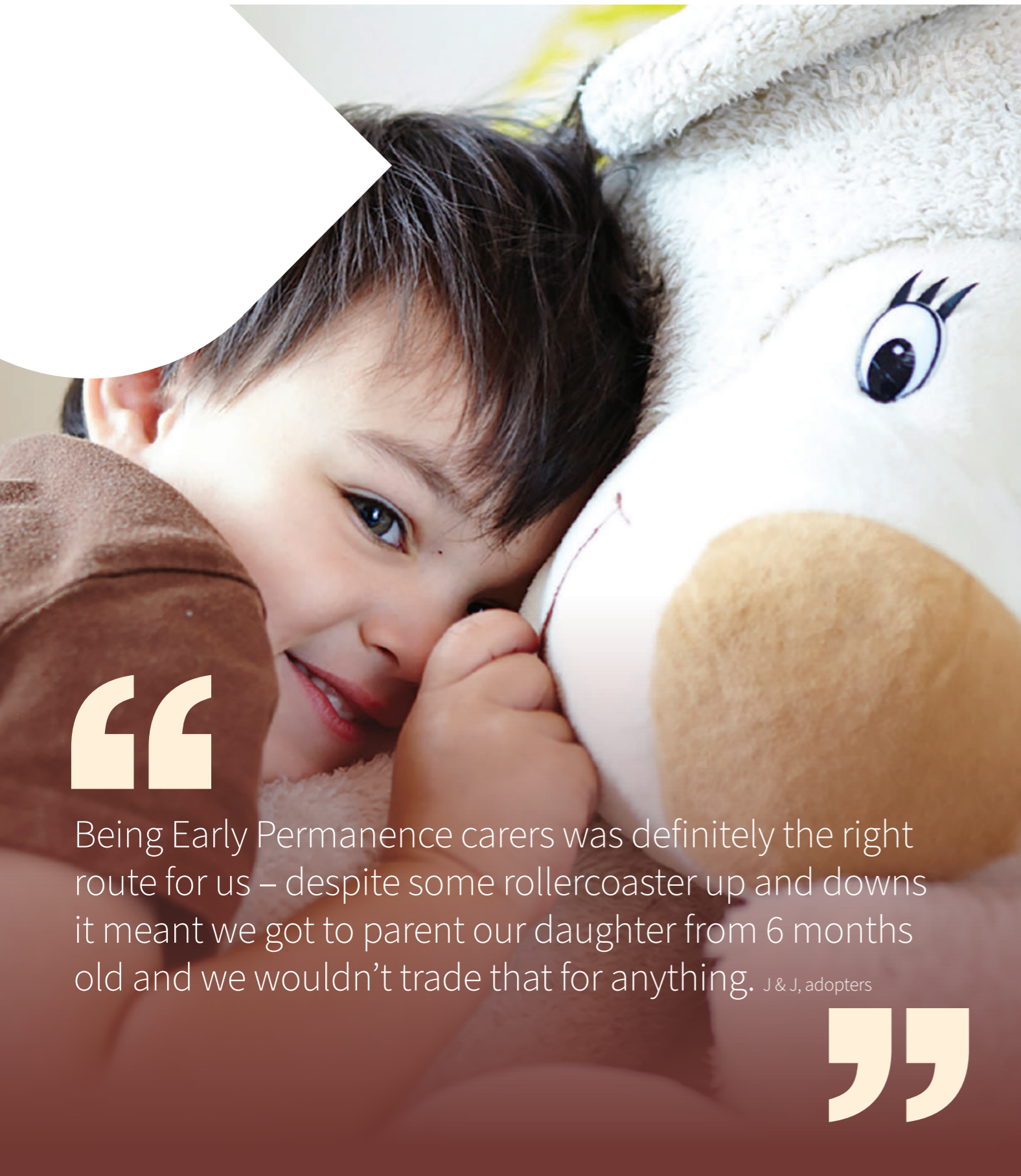
Children with additional needs

Some of our children in need of an adoptive family have physical or learning disabilities, or complex needs and may not be developing at the same rate as other children of their age. The development of some children may have been affected by earlier neglect or damaged by a parent's drug or alcohol abuse. You may feel able to take on the challenge of caring for a youngster whose longer term development is uncertain, either because of previous personal or professional experiences. Despite all the challenges, many adopters of children with such needs find it incredibly rewarding and gain a lot of fulfilment knowing they have made such a positive difference to a little one's life. Could that be you?

Children from different ethnicities

Children who need an adoptive home can come from all sorts of diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. Our aim is to find families who can reflect or promote a child's heritage even if they are not necessarily from that background themselves. We will always consider adopters, regardless of their ethnic or cultural background, if they can best meet the overall needs of the child.





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Being Early Permanence carers was definitely the right route for us – despite some rollercoaster up and downs it meant we got to parent our daughter from 6 months old and we wouldn't trade that for anything. J & J, adopters

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Early permanence

Early Permanence carers are approved adopters who have been prepared and assessed as suitable to undertake a temporary fostering role for a specific child and then will go on to adopt the child if the court decides that adoption should be the plan for that child. At the time the child is placed with the family, there is still a chance that they might be reunited with their birth family. If the court decides that the child's future is best protected by adoption, the child already has a secure attachment to their carers who are now able to adopt the child.

The advantage of these kind of placements is that the child is settled with their adoptive family at the earliest possible opportunity, which is better for their long term emotional development and their ability to form a secure attachment. For adopters, there is the opportunity to bond with a child as young as possible, though with the risk until an order is granted that the courts may decide that the child should return to the care of a birth family member.

Early Permanence carers are offered additional training and receive a fostering allowance during the period whilst the courts are deciding whether the plan for the child should be adoption.

Aspire Adoption is keen to talk to prospective adopters about Early Permanent placements, so that our children experience fewer moves in their lives and can be placed with a family they can grow up in as young as possible.



An adopter's story...

We were returning from holiday when my mobile rang. I put the phone down with tears in my eyes.

“We’ve been put forwards for a baby. His social workers want to meet us.”

It was 6 months since we’d been approved as adopters. We knew that it might take a while for the right little person to come along. However, after an intense period of visits, interviews and training we’d started to feel a little isolated.

We’d always believed that it was better for our social worker to lead the matching process. By the time we went to panel she knew us as well as anyone. Moreover, she knew the children and could decipher the more ‘ambiguous’ profiles. Despite this we were starting to wonder whether there was more that we could do. Our concerns were unfounded.

Harry’s profile arrived the next day and we had to quickly decide whether we wanted to proceed. Despite everything we’d been through we found ourselves questioning whether it was the right thing to do.

When faced with the reality of physically taking care of a child, it’s scary. We read and re-read his profile, talked, avoided talking and eventually took a leap of faith.

He sounded perfect.

We met with Harry’s social workers the following week. We treated the interview like one of the visits we’d become so used to. It’s only now that we look back and

realise just how important that meeting was. We’d hear whether our lives were about to change forever the next day.

After a sleepless night, we headed off to work. Preparing ourselves for bad news but hoping for the best. Mid-morning an email popped into my in-box.

“Call me.” It was good news!

From that moment things happened quickly. The matching panel unanimously approved us and a date was set for us to meet our son.

The day was highly emotional. We met his birth parents and then drove to meet Harry. The meeting with his birth parents highlighted their vulnerability and their humanity. They loved Harry but sadly didn’t have the social skills to keep him safe. We used the time to find out the things they’d like in his life and now do our best to nurture those interests.

When we arrived at his foster carer’s home Harry was immediately placed into his daddy’s arms. His foster carer was, and continues to be amazing. She gave our son the best start in life and we’ll be eternally grateful to her family.

Just five days later Harry came to live with us. He quickly adapted to his new home and continued to be the happy little boy we’d heard so much about.

We didn’t cope so well. We were emotionally and physically exhausted, operating in survival mode. Our world felt as though it was being turned upside down

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My heart quickens when I see this little family laughing and smiling together. I’m so proud of all of them. Our grandson has filled a void in our lives. We love our grandson to bits.

This is a quote from Harry’s new grandparents

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when we should have been on cloud nine. We were lucky to have a big support network and fantastic social workers to help us through this time. We’re sure that some of the emotions we felt were the same as those many new parents face. With adoption, we had the added complexity of worrying whether we’d bond with Harry and him with us.

As the weeks passed we grew in confidence as parents and grew together as a family. We transformed from ‘carers’ to mummy and daddy. We experienced the rush of unconditional love a parent feels for their child.

Harry became our son. Now we can’t imagine life without our little dude. He’s a happy, healthy little boy who charms everyone he meets. Our family absolutely adores Harry and he adores them.

We went on a long journey to become a family. We’ll never know why things turned out as they did but if fate played a hand he/she definitely got it right. We couldn’t have a more perfect little boy.

Assessment & Placement

The family whose story was featured on the previous page, went through the adoption assessment process to see if they were suitable to adopt. The assessment process is split into an information sharing stage then 2 more formal stages. It ends with a decision by the Agency Decision Maker which determines whether you can become an approved adopter. Then it's all about matching you with the right child or children, placing them with you and supporting you and the child until the courts make an Adoption Order.



pre stage 1

Finding out about adoption

Contact us either by phone, by email or via Facebook expressing an interest in adopting. One of our experienced adoption social workers will contact you within 24 hours to answer any immediate questions you have and to find out about your interest in adoption.

Information evenings

We hold regular information evenings across Dorset where we will give you more detailed information about adoption and the children locally in need of adoptive families. You can also hear from an adopter about their experiences.

Initial visit

If, after the information evening you are still interested in adopting, we will arrange to come to see you at home to answer any worries or more personal questions you may have about adopting, and to talk to you about yourself, your hopes in adopting, your reasons for wanting to do so, your family, job, interests and finances.

stage 1

If you decide you would like us to assess you, you will need to send us a Registration of Interest form.

Statutory checks

If we are able to accept your Registration of Interest, you will then be allocated a social worker and we will then begin the checks that all adoption agencies must make, including a check with the Disclosure and Barring Service to ensure that any child placed with you would be safe from harm. In Stage One, you also need to have a medical with your GP. They will send their report to one of our medical advisers for their comments on your suitability from a health perspective in relation to parenting. Any medical issues which arise from this report will be discussed with you. We also ask for personal references and will write to your referees. With your written consent, we also take up other references including one with the local authority where you live.

Training

In Stage One, you will also be invited to attend a four day preparation course with other prospective adopters. The course provides yet another opportunity to meet experienced adopters, as well as adopted adults and birth family members. It gives you a further opportunity to hear about the realities of adoptive family life, and covers the additional skills adoptive parents need to care for children who have experienced neglect and abuse.

You will also hear about the support we offer to adoptive families before and after the placement of a child with you, and after an Adoption Order has been made.

We also hold sessions for family and friends of adopters. This gives your loved ones the opportunity to not only understand and find out more about adoption, but also to learn how they can best support you when a child is placed.

Stage 1 decision

Based on the information we gather during Stage One, we will make a decision about you continuing to Stage Two. If you wish, you can take a break of up to six months between Stage One and Stage Two, and sometimes we recommend that you do, for example, to give time to resolve any family, housing, or employment issues.

stage 2

The Home Study

Stage Two is the more detailed home study assessment covering all aspects of your life and assessing your potential to safely care for the children needing adoptive homes nowadays. It should take no longer than four months.

During this time, we will visit you and your family, and your personal referees, as well contacting previous partners if you have parented children together. We will talk to you about your childhood and your experiences of growing up, how you feel about your family, what support you have and what sort of parent you want to be.

If you haven't got much or any direct experience caring for children, now is the time to get some and we can advise you as to how to do so. The assessment process is designed to help us to get a rounded picture of you and your family, to identify your strengths, ensure you can safely care for a child through adoption and help you to develop in any areas you are unsure about. The focus is on finding the right homes for children in care so knowing about you and your family helps us to understand the kinds of children you could best support.

Panel

Once the assessment process is complete, the social worker will gather the information together into a Prospective Adopters Report which you will see and can comment on. The report is sent to Aspire's independent Adoption Panel, which considers the report in detail at a meeting to which you will be invited to attend. The Panel comprises of social workers and other professionals working with children and young people, and those with personal experience of adoption as adopters, adopted adults or birth relatives. The Panel will make a recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker, a senior manager in Children's Social Care, who will make the decision as to your suitability to adopt. In most cases, the Agency Decision Maker accepts the Adoption Panel's recommendation.

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Adopters offer many varied qualities, identifying those qualities to the benefit of our children and to create strong and resilient families is one of our strengths.

Independent Panel Chair, Aspire Adoption

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stage 3

Family Finding

Once you have been approved, you can be considered for the children who are waiting. We will look at children known to Aspire, and at children from further afield. With your permission, we will send your details to the South West Adoption Consortium and to Adoption Match. Adoption Match manages the national statutory database of children and adopters, the Adoption Register for England, on behalf of the Department for Education. You can also put your details on Linkmaker and look at children on their website from other areas.

We will keep you updated about details of any possible children or events such as Adoption Exchanges or Activity Days. We will help you to prepare a profile which can be shared with other adoption agencies who might have children you could be considered for.

Post approval, we will invite you to further training or social events to meet with other prospective adopters.

Matching and Adoption Panel

Before making any decision about whether you are the right family for a particular child, you will be given written information about him or her, will have seen photos and a DVD and will meet with a range of people who can tell you more about them. For example, you will meet with the child's social worker, foster carer, nursery, or school. You will have an opportunity to meet with other professionals such as our clinical psychologists, medical adviser and education specialists to help you to understand the child's needs in the short and in the longer term. In some circumstances, you may be able to meet the child before deciding to go ahead.

If you and the child's social worker feel you are the right family for the child, paperwork about the match and about the support you will need will be presented to the Adoption Panel. The Adoption Panel will make a recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker, who will make the final decision about the suitability of the match.

Introductions and Placement

Once a match has been approved, a Placement Planning Meeting will take place. The meeting is attended by the prospective adopters, and their social worker, the child's social worker and their foster carers. This meeting is part of planning how to support your child's move from his or her foster carers to you and your home. Introductions typically take place initially at the foster carer's home, moving then to your home, with you spending more and more time with the child until you are doing all the care, from getting up in the morning until going to bed at night. You will get to know the child, learn their routines and begin to build a relationship of trust with them, before the child is finally placed with you. After the agreed introductions period, the child will move in with you.

stage 4

Adoption Order

With the agreement of all involved parties following a formal review of the placement, you can apply to the court to legally adopt your child. Your child must have lived with you for a minimum period of 10 weeks before you can do so. The court will set a date for the adoption hearing, and the court will make the final decision. When an Adoption Order is granted, your child will legally become a full member of your family.

You and your child will be invited to attend a further private hearing at the court confirming your new legal status as an adoptive family.

Life story books

All children who are adopted need to know why they were adopted, and about their birth family. In Aspire, we ensure that high quality life story books are put together for all children moving to adoption. For younger children, these books are put together for them. Older children can be involved in the process as part of helping to prepare them for moving to an adoptive family. Life story books contain photographs and illustrations with simple text helping a child to understand their early history and the reasons why they could not remain with their birth family. The books give information about their birth family and any foster carers they lived with. They start and end with photos and text about their adoptive family. Understanding the past can help a child to feel more settled with their adoptive family.

John and his partner have two adopted children. He says:

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They each have a life story book which is written in a way that the children can understand and relate to ... it's sensitively handled but it equally doesn't gloss over the fact that they couldn't be cared for.” The book, he says, also helps to prompt questions from his son “that we can then answer for him, as to why.” So, why would the birth family have done that and why did that happen? I think that is, in itself, a valuable tool because it enables us to have that conversation.

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Adoption Support

The age and background of the children placed for adoption nowadays mean that many adoptive families will continue to need ongoing support after an Adoption Order has been made. What has happened to these children in their early lives mean that some will have suffered both physically and emotionally, which will affect them through their childhood and beyond. As a consequence of what happened before he or she came to live with you, your child may have often developed ways of coping which, for example, may make it difficult for them to form relationships or manage their emotions and behaviour. This may not be evident immediately after your child has come to live with you but may be something which you recognise and need support with as time goes by.

As an adoptive parent, you will still get support from us after the Adoption Order has been made. Aspire provides adoption support services on behalf of the new local authorities of BCP Council & Dorset Council, so if you are entitled to adoption support from either local authority, contact us in Aspire. We have experienced social workers, support workers, clinical psychologists and education specialists who are on hand to help you through the years ahead. Aspire can also access funding from the Adoption Support Fund on your behalf for certain therapeutic services. The Adoption Support Fund was established by the Government because adoptive families have struggled to get the help they need in the past. When an adoption support assessment identifies that therapeutic services are needed by you and your family, we can apply to the Adoption Support Fund on your behalf for the funding.

What adoption support services does Aspire offer?

We have a specialist multi-disciplinary Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Team in Aspire and operate a daily duty service within office hours. In the team, we have social workers and support workers with additional specialist training and skills. We have clinical psychologists who can help you to understand your child's difficulties and behaviour, and who can suggest ways of helping. We have education specialists who can help give advice about any issues about schools or accessing additional education funding in the form of the Early Years Pupil Premium or Pupil Premium to meet your child's needs. The team manager of the team acts as the Adoption Support Services Adviser (ASSA) to coordinate services to all those whose lives have been touched by adoption.

For adoptive families, these services include:

- Counselling, advice, and information
- Social events and support groups for adoptive families, including an annual picnic in the summer and party at Christmas; evening support groups for adopters; coffee mornings for parents and their pre-school children; and activity events for adopted teenagers
- Ongoing training on subjects such as education, internet safety, choosing a nursery, using your life story book, and access to parenting skills courses for adoptive parents
- Therapeutic services for adoptive families via our experienced and skilled staff, and externally via funding from the Adoption Support Fund
- On behalf of the two local authorities, Aspire manages all the indirect exchanges of information (letterbox) between adoptive families and birth relatives and some direct contact arrangements, including those set up before July 2017.




Why come to Aspire Adoption?

Aspire is a Regional Adoption Agency, which is taking on most of the adoption functions of the local authorities of BCP Council and Dorset Council. This is an exciting and innovative venture, providing opportunities for new ways of working to minimise delay for prospective adopters in being assessed and for children in being matched quicker with their new family.

In setting up our Regional Adoption Agency, we have been able to bring the best practice from each local authority and the expertise, skills and experience of staff from all across the region under one roof.

We have teams of very experienced social workers, focussing on specialist areas of work. One team undertakes adoption assessments, and supports prospective adopters through the family finding and matching process through to an Adoption Order. They work closely with the Family Finding, Matching and Placement Team. The workers in the Family Finding and Matching Team are linked with all of the children in the area needing adoptive families, work directly with them to get to know them and to help to prepare them for their move to a new family. They continue supporting the child until an Adoption Order is made. They also work closely with the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Team to ensure that you and your child are supported in the years ahead.

We are keen to hear from anyone across the county of Dorset, and further afield into Wiltshire, Hampshire, Devon and Somerset. Call us today!





Working together to deliver Aspire Adoption Services



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