

Information about Agency Adoption

What are Agency Adoptions?

Agency adoptions are where a child who is in the care of a Local Authority is placed with an adoptive family by the local authority who cares for them.

- These children have often had a difficult start in life.
- Most will be at least twelve months old and some will be as old as seven or eight years.
- Some will have brothers or sisters who will need to be placed with them
- Some may have specific health or medical problems / needs.
- Some will have delayed development

What is the responsibility of the council?

All Local Authority Children's Services Departments have responsibilities relating to:

- The placement of children for adoption who are in the care of the Local Authority and the support of their adoptive placements.
- The provision of counselling and support services to the parents of children who are to be or who have been placed for adoption and to other close birth family relatives.
- The preparation, assessment and approval of prospective adopters.
- The provision of support services to adopted children, and to members of their adoptive families where placements are in difficulty.

The provision of support services to adopted adults who are living in or originate from the Local Authority area and who are seeking access to their previous In Care and/or Adoption records and / or seeking to re-establish contact (indirect or direct) with members of their birth families.