

Welcome to Together for Adoption



Contents

Welcome Together for Adoption	3
Hello and welcome to Together for Adoption	3
Making an enquiry	3
Information Session	3
Initial Visit	3
What happens after an initial visit?	4
What if now isn't the right time?	4
I've returned my registration of interest. Now what happens?	4
Where can I find more information about adoption?	5
Adopter Stories	5
Kirsty	
Katie and Neil	
Debbie and Lee	

Welcome to Together for Adoption

Hello and welcome to Together for Adoption

Congratulations! You've made the exciting first step by enquiring with us about welcoming a child (or children) into your family.

We are a regional adoption agency (RAA) who work with children in need of adoption in Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, St Helens, Warrington and Wigan. Our role as a RAA is to assess prospective adopters for our children and ensure we can find the right match for them with their new family.

We are excited to help support you on this journey into the world of adoption and look forward to meeting you soon.

Making an enquiry

When you make an enquiry with Together for Adoption, one of our friendly team members will give you a call to talk through the process and your current circumstances, including what has brought you to thinking about adoption. You will then be invited to one of our virtual or in-person information sessions. We will also gain your consent to complete our first safeguarding checks, which is a check with the local authority in which you live. Once these checks are back, we will be in touch with you to discuss arranging an initial visit.

Information session

All prospective adopters are asked to attend an information session to give them more information of the adoption process. This will enable you to consider whether this is the right time for you to begin your adoption journey. The information session will give you an overview of the important topics of adoption, such as keeping in contact with birth families, the needs of our children, and the support offered to our adopters both before and after and adoption order is made. [Book your information session.](#)

Initial visit

If, after making an enquiry, you would like to proceed to an initial visit, one of our social workers will be in contact with you to arrange this. If you are applying to adopt as a couple, both of you will need to be present for the visit. An initial visit can take between 1-2 hours and will cover topics that are important to you such as: your motivation to adopt, your health, your employment (both past and present), your support network, your

relationship, and your childhood. If you are a parent, it will also include a discussion on your child's needs and experiences, but your child does not need to be present. This will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you have about adoption and for us to offer you support about considering the best time to move forward into assessment.

What happens after an initial visit?

After your initial visit, the social worker will write up a summary of the conversation you had and send it out to you. If everyone agrees that now is the right time to move forward in your adoption journey, you will be invited to complete a registration of Interest (ROI) to begin your stage 1 process. You will also be sent dates for attending preparation training.

What if now isn't the right time?

The social worker completing your initial visit will advise you on the visit about whether they think it is the right time to move forward in your adoption journey, based on the information you have shared. If it isn't the right time, they will offer you advice and guidance as to why now might not be the right time to move forward.

After the visit, you may also feel now is not the right time to start your journey. Please know that this is okay.

Even if now is not the right time, you are still very welcome to come back to us and make a new enquiry when you feel ready.

I've returned my registration of interest. Now what happens?

Once your ROI has been returned, you will be allocated a social worker and invited onto your preparation for adoption training. This is the beginning of your stage 1. To see more information about the stages of your adoption journey, please visit our [website](#).

Where can I find more information about adoption?

Our website has lots of information about your adoption journey, why children need adopting, our children's needs, and support available on your journey. Our website also includes a frequently asked questions page, as well as information on the different routes to adoption.

Visit www.togetherforadoption.co.uk for more information.

Adopter Stories

Kirsty



As a single adopter, I was worried if I could do this alone. All Together for Adoption staff I met on my adoption journey were encouraging and believed in me.

The process was very smooth, and I was matched immediately following approval – I applied in January and my daughter came home in December! I had thought I might be a less appealing adopter as a single person but that wasn't the case.

We attended the adoption nurture group, which provided lots of lovely activity ideas for forming connections, and we met other mums and daughters who are still friends 8 years on.

I have attended numerous Together for Adoption training sessions, from evening courses to full day courses, I found all the Together for Adoption trainers knowledgeable and professional.

For anyone considering adoption, I would recommend speaking to adoptive parents via Together for Adoption. There are ongoing challenges, but being a mum to my amazing daughter is the biggest privilege and I am so grateful to Together for Adoption.

Katie and Neil



After starting our steps to adoption, we got to know more about 'Fostering for Adoption' at our preparation meeting, and it changed everything for us. Even though it was a bigger risk for us, we knew it could really benefit a child, and we understood we were doing this for them. We realised the risk was worth it for us.

After completing some additional steps and being recommended, our daughter came to us at 4 days old. There were obstacles ahead that no one can prepare you for, but the support we had was wonderful and continues to this day at 4 years old.

We were involved every step of the way and through fostering, family contact, court days and finally adoption we felt like we were part of a bigger family.

We learnt to be patient and understand that all decisions are made for the benefit of the child. This can sometimes be hard to hear, but delays and learning ways to cope with such a change in your life is all part of it.

With the outcome and adoption comes the joy and understanding of why things happen when they do.

Debbie and Lee



Embarking on our adoption journey was the scariest yet most exciting time of our lives, as we were stepping into the unknown and putting our trust and faith in Together for Adoption to help us extend our family. We were supported through every stage of our journey, from the information evening to our initial enquiry, right through to the final adoption order being granted.

The support we have had from Together for Adoption included; extensive training days during our assessment period, being offered a place at 'nurture group' to promote positive attachment in the early days of our little boy coming home, attendance at the monthly adopter's meet up (a great opportunity to meet others going through the process), a continued offer of events and training even though we are 'post' adoption order, and invites to Summer and Christmas social events.

Together for Adoption do not suddenly 'disappear' once the adoption order is granted - their support is ongoing and invaluable.

Deciding to adopt is a life-long, life-changing commitment, but it is a commitment we will continue to make to our little boy his whole life through, and ultimately it is a decision we will never, ever regret.

www.togetherforadoption.co.uk

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