



Fact Sheet on Adoption of Children over 2 Years of Age

Information on permanent family placements for children 2 years +.

There are a number of single children and family groups within North Ayrshire aged over 2 years who require permanent family placements. There are also sibling groups where the younger child may be less than two.

Information for Applicants

There is no set upper age limit for this schedule but obviously adoptive parents should be in the appropriate age range for children to be placed.

Please read the information contained in this fact sheet. If, once you have read the information, you are still interested in finding out more about a family placement for children over 2 years of age, a social worker will arrange to visit you at home in order to discuss matters further.

There is no obligation to proceed any further at this point, as the visit is only to provide you with the opportunity to ask questions. You will also be given more detailed information about the adoption process and details about the children-requiring placement.

The next step is preparation groups. You and other interested people will be asked to attend a series of preparation groups to find out more about why children are looked after or accommodated by the Council. You will explore and discuss some of the difficulties children have, and how to deal with them. Details of the looked after legislation and internal procedures and supports (both financial and practical) which Social Services offer will be fully discussed.

Criteria for the Adoption of Older Children

Age

- All applicants should be over 21 years of age. There is no set upper limit for this scheme, but applicants should be in the appropriate age range for the particular child or children.

Status

- Applicants will be accepted from single people, married, non-married couples including same sex couples. Couples must have lived together for at least 2 years prior to the enquiry.

Infertility

- Applicants will not be accepted from couples still undergoing treatment **or** investigation for infertility. They should also have ceased with all treatments or investigations for at least six months prior to the adoption application.

Residence

- Enquiries will be considered from residents in north Ayrshire or surrounding areas. Obviously too great a geographical distance from North Ayrshire may make an assessment difficult to undertake. In these cases, with their permission, applicants may be referred to another authority closer to them.

Preparatory Groups

- All applicants must attend a number of preparation groups before their formal application can be progressed.

Children waiting to be Adopted

- Applicants will only be accepted from enquirers who are willing to accept children from a range of backgrounds. These may include physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional abuse or children whose parents abuse alcohol or drugs.

Birth Family Contact

- Applicants should accept that there may be continued contact with Birth Parents or siblings. This may be by letter via social services or in occasional cases direct contact may be appropriate.
- Applicants must be able to share with children the circumstances of their adoption throughout his/her life.

The Assessment Process

- A full and comprehensive assessment requires to be completed for all applicants who wish to adopt.
- This assessment would normally take six months to be completed.
- This assessment report incurs no cost for the applicant.

Local Authority, Health and Police Checks

- All applicants will be subject to local authority, health and police checks, as well as any other checks, which are appropriate.
- All applicants will be required to have a full medical, performed by their G.P.

References

- Applicants must provide the names and addresses of at least three referees, one of whom should be a family member. These referees must agree to complete a form of reference and be visited by the assessing social worker.

For further Information on Adoption, please contact us using the following contact details;

Telephone: 01294 311505

Or write to:

Children & Families Services
Social Services
North Ayrshire Council
47 West Road
Irvine
KA12 8RE