

Adopting with Concurrent Planning



What is Adopting with Concurrent Planning?

Adopting with Concurrent Planning is a service for babies and young children who enter care and are likely to need adoption but also still have a small chance of being reunited with their birth family. Our carers are dually approved as both foster carers and adopters. This means that carers will initially perform the role of foster carer while the courts decide whether or not a child can return to his/her birth family.

Children placed through this service are often much younger. During the last six years, nearly **70% of children placed through our service were under the age of 6 weeks**. However, over the last six months this age range is growing and we are seeing a need for individuals and families to consider babies and young children aged from 1-2 years including, sibling groups. The children have the benefit of being placed with their potential permanent family very early in their lives and experience no moves or disruptions in their early relationships; **we know this is crucial for future attachment**.

After careful assessment and consideration, the court may decide it is in the child's best interest to return home to their birth family and the child maybe returned to their care.

Concurrent carers will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have given the child the best possible start in life by providing care and security from the earliest stages and will play a part in helping them settle back into their family.

The largest service of its kind in the country

The service has placed over 143 young children & approved over 110 individuals and families.

A partnership, innovative service

Delivered in partnership between Adoption Matters and Caritas Care, the service is now the largest service of its kind in the country covering a large area of the North of England.

www.adoptionmatters.org/ccp

www.caritascare.org.uk/adoption/concurrent-planning



Putting children's needs first

Minimises placement moves for children & works closely with birth families
Adopting with **Concurrent Planning**



What are the main differences in Adopting with Concurrent Planning to traditional adoption?

There are many differences including:

The age of the child placed, children placed through this service are often much younger but recently we have seen this age range grow to 12 months and above.

Due to the young age of the children placed, one carer, if applying as a couple, will need to be based at home full time for a minimum of 6 months of the fostering phase. This is in order to help the child to form stable and secure early attachments and to facilitate contact between the child and his/her birth parents when you will be approved as a foster carer.

In 2015, changes in legislation in relation to parental leave also applied to adoption, which means that adoption leave can start from the point that the child is placed under fostering regulations. There is now also greater flexibility in the sharing of adoption leave between partners, if applying as a couple.

You will be approved as a foster carer. When the child is placed you will be entitled to a fostering allowance (currently £240 per week) for the fostering phase, which is a minimum of 6 months - which is the expected duration of the fostering phase. This is an allowance payable per child and is for the child to cover equipment for the child and expenses incurred during the placement; including travelling expenses to and from contact.

Contact will be held on a regular basis with birth family and will involve transporting the child or children to a neutral venue agreed with the child's local authority and ourselves. All contact sessions are supervised by a professional. Being a driver with access to a car is desirable but we do have carers who use public transport for contact sessions.

We can discuss your role in contact and what is involved in more depth with you either over the telephone, at one of our information evenings or a home / online visit.

Children placed through the service tend to be younger.

You will be dually approved as a foster carer and adopter.

You will work closely with birth family & have ongoing support from our dedicated team.

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www.caritascare.org.uk/adoption/concurrent-planning



Children have the benefit of few moves or disruptions to their early relationships,

..which we know is *crucial* for future attachment.



Assessment. You will go through the same adoption Stage 1 and 2 approval process as a 'traditional' adopter but the difference with Adopting with Concurrent Planning is you will also be assessed as a foster carer. The service will assess you under fostering regulations and offer additional training to approve you as a foster carer. The enquiry, stage 1 and 2 and approval process for 'traditional' adoption will still apply but you will also need to attend a fostering panel. Please refer to your chosen adoption agency information pack for more details on the adoption process, stages, training, frequently asked questions etc.

What are the benefits of Adopting with Concurrent Planning?

Carers who go on to adopt with Concurrent Planning get to know and love their children from a very young age, often from birth and help them through the time in their life when they are most vulnerable. You will also get to know the birth family of the child through regular contact sessions, which can form the basis for meaningful contact in the future if all parties agree. By getting to know the family this can be a very important source of information for the child in later life and offer them real insight into their early start in life.

If a child does return home to live with birth family, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have given the child the best possible start in life by providing care, love and stability from the earliest stages and you will play a part in helping them settle back into their family. Likewise, if you go on to adopt the child, the birth family will take comfort that they have met the family who is going to care for their child and they will know they are safe, loved and well cared for.

Support

The service offers a high level of support to all their carers and adopters. You will be allocated a social worker within the team who will offer support and supervision on an individual basis throughout the duration of the placement. We also offer an emergency, out of hours phone line for all of our carers which is staffed by an experienced member of the service, **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. You will have access to Caritas Care's Fostering Service full training programme as well as a bespoke package of training and support through the service. There are also workshops, support groups and regular coffee mornings.

In addition to this, you will receive support available to all adopters through your chosen adoption agency, Adoption Matters or Caritas Care.

I'm interested!

Next steps to proceed with your enquiry
Adopting with **Concurrent Planning**



What do our Carers say?

“Our Social Worker has been so great. Kind, friendly, encouraging, efficient, communications have all been in a timely fashion. Her guidance has been ideal for our application process”

“The fact that Ben and I would be able to take care of a younger child and, hopefully, one that we could stop from having to go from foster home to foster home to then possibly being adopted, made me think about it all differently”

Ben & Amy

I'm interested - what is the next step?

Contact us on the below number or email and a member of our team will discuss your enquiry with you further. We hold regular information evenings to talk about Adopting with Concurrent Planning in more detail which you may wish to attend. The evenings are optional but we would encourage you to come along, meet the team and find out more. Don't worry if you can't make any of the dates, just contact us and we can arrange to come and see you in your home to answer your questions and see if this is the right choice for you. After this visit, if mutually agreed, we will ask you to complete a **Registration of Interest Form**, this will start the Stage 1 adoption process.

If at any time you, or we, decide that Adopting with Concurrent Planning is not the right choice for you, you may then want to consider traditional adoption or you may wish to close your enquiry or postpone proceeding to the next stage until you are ready. Adoption is a life changing decision and we understand if you need more time.

Contact us



0161 743 3682

www.adoptionmatters.org/ccp

www.caritascare.org.uk/adoption/concurrent-planning

The Adopting with Concurrent Planning Service is delivered in partnership by Caritas Care and Adoption Matters, registered children's charities and voluntary adoption agencies both rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. Caritas Care is also an approved fostering agency also rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. Together, they have over 140 years experience in the adoption sector.



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