

收養及永久性撫養：問題與答案

بچے کو گود لینا اور پرورش کے لئے مستقل طور پر اپنی تحویل میں لینا: سوالات و جوابات

دائمی گھرانہ اور دائمی لالچہ پالنا: پوچھنا اور جواب دہی

التبني والتنشئة الدائمة لأطفال الآخرين: أسئلة وإجابات

Adoption and Permanent Fostering



Questions and Answers

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Adopting or offering permanent foster care is about making a real difference to a child's life. You provide a secure, loving home to a child – for life!

Like all parenting, it means sticking with it through good times and bad. It's one of the most challenging, but also one of the most rewarding things you can do.

If you've ever thought of taking this big step, this booklet is for you. It answers some of the key questions you may have. Read on to find out more and if you decide to take the next step, there are a list of useful contacts at the back of this booklet.



What is adoption?

What is permanent foster care?

Which children need adoption/permanent care?

What is adoption?

Adoption is a lifelong commitment. It's about providing a permanent family for a child or children in care, who cannot, for whatever reason, return home. When you adopt a child, you take on all the rights and responsibilities for the child that the birth parent had.

What is permanent foster care?

Permanent foster care is a lifelong commitment. It's about providing a permanent family for a child or children in care who cannot for whatever reason, return home. When you permanently care for a child, you share the legal rights and responsibilities for the child with the City of Edinburgh Council.

Which children need adoption/permanent care?

There are all sorts of children who need adoptive or permanent foster parents, from babies/toddlers to children of upper primary school age. Sometimes there are two, three or more brothers and sisters who need to live and grow up together.



Some children may have been abused or neglected in their past. Other children may have physical or learning disabilities. Some children may have developmental or genetic uncertainties around their future development. The one thing all these children have in common is that their parents are unable to care for them and they need a new, permanent family to care for them as they grow up.

How long does it all take?

What rights do birth parents have afterwards?

Will the child still see their birth parents or other relatives?

How long does it all take?

New standards for adoption and permanent foster care say the entire process, from your initial phone call to being approved as a prospective parent, should take no more than about eight months. All adoption agencies are working towards this goal.

What rights do birth parents have afterwards?

Once an Adoption Order has been made, the birth parents have no legal rights over the child and cannot claim him or her back. With Permanent Fostering the position will vary according to the child's specific circumstances.

Will the child still see their birth parents or other relatives?

The child may well benefit from continuing to see (or to have letter box contact with) other important people in their lives. For a small number of children it will be important for them to see periodically a birth parent, brothers or sisters, grandparents or previous foster carers. This is something we will discuss fully with you before a child/children are placed with you. A number of other children will have indirect contact with birth family members by letter box contact.



Will I be told about the child's background?

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It is very important that you know as much as possible about the child's past. By law we must give you information about the child, which includes details about his or her background, time in care, school history and any medical needs.

This knowledge will help you understand the child when they come to live with you, help the child understand the circumstances of their adoption or fostering and help you find the best way of supporting them in the future.

Will I be paid?

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You are expected to meet the general living costs of a child you adopt, just like any parent. However, you may be eligible for an Adoption Allowance, which depends on the identified needs of the child. With Permanent Fostering, you will receive an allowance for the child and a fee as a Departmental Foster Carer.

What support will I get afterwards?

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It is ideal for you to continue to work in partnership with us, particularly in the first few years, so that the child gets the best possible start as part of your family. Sometimes the best form of support comes from other parents in the same situation as you. There are several organisations that will put you in touch with groups of local adoptive parents who are in the same situation and understand the issues. See the back of this booklet for details. We will also offer ongoing support and post placement training.

What other support will I get?

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A child you adopt is entitled to the same range of social services and other support, based on their need, as any child. This could be, for example, special educational and medical services, as well as advice or counselling.



How do I take the next step?

You need to contact the Permanence Team in the City of Edinburgh Council. You can do this by calling 0131 556 6787 or e-mailing: familybasedcare.east@edinburgh.gov.uk

Staff in the Permanence Team will be pleased to answer your questions and provide support and advice about taking the next step.

If you want more information about adoption or permanent fostering before you get in touch with us, you could contact the following organisations:

Adoption UK offers support and information before, during and after adoption. A parent-to-parent network of more than 3,500 existing and potential adoptive parents.

Scotland Office	Telephone: 0131 558 2662
Floor 2, Greenside House	Fax: 0131 558 2772
25 Greenside Place	E-mail: Scotland@adoptionuk.org.uk
Edinburgh	Website: www.adoptionuk.org
EH1 3AA	

British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) offer information and support on all aspects of adoption.

BAAF	Telephone: 0131 220 4749
40 Shandwick Place	Fax: 0131 226 3778
Edinburgh	E-mail: scotland@baaf.org.uk
EH2 4RT	Website: www.baaf.org.uk

