



# Adoption Central England

## 4th Anniversary Week February 2022

### Bulletin: 1

The first of five bulletins to tell you about ACE and adoption in our anniversary week

Four years ago, four local authorities came together to form the regional adoption agency – **Adoption Central England (ACE)**. The original partners, Coventry City Council, Solihull MBC, Warwickshire County Council and Worcestershire Children First were later joined by Herefordshire Council.

It is the Government's intention to drive up standards of adoption practice across the country which led to the formation of regional adoption agencies. With these intentions in mind the ACE priorities are to:

- *Ensure that there are enough adoptive parents ready to meet the needs of children who are waiting and who need love, nurturing, and protection*
- *To reduce the time that some children have to wait to be adopted*
- *To ensure that attachment and trauma informed adoption support services are available to the adoptive families who need this help.*

Across this broad range of ambitions (and despite the impact of coronavirus) ACE is doing well. Year on year the service has been able to assess adoptive families for more than 80% of the children who are waiting for the opportunity to experience long term care and stability in an adoptive family.

The process for becoming an adoptive parent is robust and guided by adoption regulations. ACE has been at the forefront of developing practice in this area. The Adopter Assessment Report places the voice and experiences of adoptive parents at the centre to the process and allows them to make their own contributions to assessment. Many adopters have said that whilst the

process was longer and more in depth than they expected, they can now see why this was necessary. **It is about understanding and putting the needs of children first.**

An attachment and trauma informed approach has led to ACE becoming the first adoption service (and fourth service in the world!) to become a **Certified DDP Organisation**. Read *Bulletin 2* for more information about DDP and what this means for our families and children.

ACE has dedicated adoption support services, including ongoing training for adoptive parents. There is a Therapeutic Team who offer group and family based services and a clinical psychologist has recently been appointed. Together these services outreach to families during their time of need, and will respond to adoptive parents who can face different challenges to those usually experienced by families.

ACE also provides an independent and confidential support service to birth families that helps them to understand the adoption processes and supports them in making future life choices.

**ACE is keen to recruit more families from all sections of the community and needs families now for slightly older children over 3 years and families that can keep brothers and sisters together.** Through the ACE Buddy Scheme our experienced adopters are available to support prospective adopters through the process.



**ACE - Together we build strong families**

To find out more about adoption and how to become an adoptive parent visit [aceadoption.com](http://aceadoption.com)