



# Adoption Central England

## 4th Anniversary Week February 2022

### Bulletin: 5

## ACE—Moving forward into year 5

We have used this anniversary week to:

- Share information about ACE and what people have thought about our services,
- To recognise how we have been able to successfully secure adoption for children with adoptive parents who can provide sensitive and emotionally attuned parenting,
- To promote how we put children first through ‘fostering for adoption’ and by maintaining important relationships for children supported by their adoptive parents, and
- What it means to us to be a DDP certified service.

ACE provides a comprehensive adoption service, where practice is informed by the latest research in the field. ACE has shown innovative approaches in its work that has recently been recognised by OFSTED:

*‘Introductions for children to their adoptive families are well considered and carefully planned at a pace that is right for the child ... Strong quality assurance processes ...regular opportunities to reflect on and develop practice. This supports positive outcomes for children and adopters.’ (Warwickshire County Council OFSTED Inspection Report 1.2.2022)*

In addition to the dedicated adoption support service, ACE is committed to listening to the views and experiences of adoptive parents and includes them in many aspects of the service. This is through the Adopter Stakeholder Group, their membership on the Adoption Panel, sharing their experiences on training or through buddying prospective adopters coming through the process. These opportunities allow adoptive parents to be supported by adopters who have the shared experiences.

One of our important ambitions for the service going forward is to **recruit families for those children who are consistently waiting longer for an adoptive family**. ACE is keen to hear

from anyone interested in adoption irrespective of personal circumstances. ACE welcomes enquiries from single people and couples, those in same sex relationships and from all sections of the community. We would particularly welcome more families from the African and African-Caribbean communities and those who feel able to consider slightly older children (3 years plus) with a preference for boys, and families who will consider sibling groups of brothers and sisters.

At the same time ACE is **planning to extend the range of post approval training for adoptive parents and their extended family members**.

This will build upon existing knowledge and understanding of children who have experienced trauma, allowing them to appreciate why different approaches to parenting may be necessary which is underpinned by the DDP principles as outlined in Bulletin 2.

We are hoping that with the coronavirus restrictions lifting there will be **more opportunities for adoptive parents to meet socially and to allow their children to meet other adopted children**. We are also intending to extend opportunities for adopted young people to talk about adoption and the services and support that they need.

We will be promoting the additional support available through the ACE **Clinical Psychology Service** and be developing an **enhanced support care service** for some families.

ACE was set up to *‘provide an innovative and relationship focussed service for children, adoptive families and others affected by adoption ... this is by offering lifelong support, based on up to date practices and inventions support by modern technology’*.

ACE has used this week to celebrate the progress made to date and welcomes enquiries from anyone interested in adoption.

Visit [aceadoption.com](http://aceadoption.com)

**ACE—Together we build strong families**