



Families for Children

Adoption Information Pack



families
for children





What is adoption?

Adoption is a service for children who cannot live with their birth families. This legal process releases them from local authority care, and enables them to become a full, permanent member of your family.

Adoption transfers all legal parental rights and responsibilities from birth parents, or the local authority to adoptive parent(s).



Adoption has worked very well for us. It has been a positive experience and we have two absolutely brilliant kids, who have really bonded as siblings.

Who are we?

Glasgow City HSCP is the largest authority in Scotland. As such, we are a busy adoption service, supporting the assessment and approval of adopters, as well as the matching and placing of children for adoption. For many adoptive families, we have a continued role in relation to post adoption support. Our dedicated adoption service is staffed by experienced, knowledgeable social workers who will guide and support you through your adoption journey.

Adoption is an incredibly fulfilling and life changing process, so we have included some brief information for you to consider and help you reach the decision that adoption is right for you.

The information pack relates to adoption within Scotland only and does not cover intercountry adoption or stepparent adoption. We have a dedicated recruitment team who are happy to talk to you more about all routes to adoption and answer any questions you may have. They can be contacted either by email at duty@sw.glasgow.gov.uk or by telephone on 0345 276 5555.





We need adopters for brothers and sisters so they can continue to live with each other, for older children and for children who have developmental uncertainty. Some children may have additional support needs and may require continuing support from Education, Health and Social Work Services throughout their childhood.

We would encourage prospective adopters to consider these children and the positive impact they can have on your life.

Our service is here to support you from the start of your adoption journey for as long as it is required.

In Glasgow City HSCP we consider the adoption support needs of every Glasgow child who is placed for adoption. Each child has an adoption support plan in place, tailored to their individual needs.



You get such lovely moments, for example if we're driving along in the car and I look in the mirror and see my children holding hands in the back.

Children who need an adoptive family

We are looking for people who can make a positive difference to the lives of Glasgow's children. We want people who can care for children who are unable to live with their birth families, by offering them a stable, loving family, throughout their childhood and beyond.

We are looking for adoptive parents who are ready to face the challenges and experience the rewards of adopting children who may not have had the best start in life.

Within Glasgow we are looking for adopters for children of all ages. Many of our children may have had adverse experiences in their early years so we need more adoptive families who can nurture and support these children to reach their potential.



Criteria to adopt

You must be over 21 years old to apply to adopt. If you wish to adopt a child aged 0-4 years, single prospective adopters, or the younger member of a couple must be under 45 years old when an application is made.

We need adopters from all walks of life, differing faiths and backgrounds including the LGBTQ+ community. We welcome enquiries from both single people and couples, but we ask that if you are a couple, that you have been living together in a stable relationship for at least two years before making your enquiry.

You don't need to own your own home. If you were not born in the UK, but live in Glasgow, then we ask that you have settled status or citizenship before we could accept an enquiry from you.

We also welcome enquiries from families who already have their own birth children or adopted children.

In Glasgow City HSCP we have no set age criteria for adopters who wish to be matched with older children and some sibling groups, but we do need to give consideration to your age, health and lifestyle.



Your physical and emotional health will be considered as part of your assessment therefore we ask that you are in good general physical and emotional health. If you do have any underlying health concerns, we ask that you discuss these with us at the start of your enquiry to allow us to provide you with the best support and advice around this.

We are unable to accept your enquiry if you are currently undergoing infertility treatment or are on a waiting list for treatment. We would ask that there would be a minimum of 6 months from fertility treatment ending to making an enquiry to adopt to our service.

We are looking to place children within non-smoking households. If you smoke or vape, you will be asked to delay your application until you are able to demonstrate that you have stopped smoking/ vaping for a minimum of one year. You must be able to support a child into independence.

The nature of adoption has changed over time and we welcome enquiries from adopters who can support children to maintain relationships with family members and carers who are important to them. In Glasgow we will support you to do this safely.

The Process

Initial enquiry

This stage allows you to find out more about the adoption process and for us to take some initial information. Our team can be contacted either by email at children@glasgow.gov.uk or by telephone on 0345 276 5555 and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Home visit

We will talk to you about the adoption process in more details and discuss whether it's the right time for you and your family. If you wish to proceed, you will then be invited to attend preparatory group sessions.

Preparation groups

You will attend preparation groups along with other prospective adopters. These sessions will give you more information about adoption and help you to think about how this will impact on your life. This is a compulsory part of the assessment process.

Assessment

The assessment or 'home study' will look at all the factors contributing to your ability to care for a child, such as your parenting skills, experience of children and your health and well-being. Local Authority, Health, Employment and Disclosure Scotland checks will be carried out as part of this process.

All of this information will be collated by your assessing social worker in collaboration with you using the BAAF PAR(S) report template and should be completed within 6 months.

The PAR(S) report will be presented to Glasgow City HSCP Adoption and Permanence Panel for their consideration, with you and your assessing social worker in attendance.

The Panel will make a recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker, a senior manager in social work services, who will make the decision on your approval as an adoptive parent.

Family finding – matching process

Once you are approved as an adopter, your social worker will begin family finding. It is during this stage that you will be matched with a child or children. You will have the opportunity to attend post approval learning events and support groups, whilst waiting to be matched.



At first it was challenging, but any new parent will tell you that, it takes a lot of energy and a lot of time. You don't get a minute, but that is family life.





Support we offer

Glasgow City HSCP is committed to supporting our adoptive families and as such we offer an ever-growing range of post adoption support that will be tailored to your family's needs and circumstances.

Following approval, you will have access to regular adoption support groups and post approval learning events which will allow you to meet other adopters and professionals.

As a Glasgow adopter, you will have an allocated social worker from the adoption team who will support and guide you through your journey. You will also have access to our Learning and Development team who provide a range of training and resources to enhance your knowledge and understanding. This is a mixture of online and in person events.

We have staff trained in therapeutic life story work, theraplay and have strong partnership links with health, education and other organisations to support adoptive families.

All of Glasgow's children who are placed for adoption will have an adoption support plan in place from the point of matching.

As an agency, Glasgow City HSCP works closely with the Scottish Adoption Advice Service (Barnardo's) and with Adoption UK to provide training and social opportunities to our adoptive families on behalf of the service. Support from these agencies complements what we offer as a service, providing lots of opportunities for Glasgow adopters to benefit from a varied range of supports.

Glasgow City HSCP pays for the first year's membership of Adoption UK for all approved adopters and membership to New Family Social for adopters from the LGBTQ+ community.

We also have a dedicated social worker within the service who helps support children, adopters and their birth family members to stay connected by facilitating the indirect exchanges of information and photographs often referred to as letterbox contact, post adoption.

As mentioned adoption has changed over the years and it is really important that we have adopters who, with support can help children and young people stay connected to people who are important to them. This could be brothers, sisters, foster carers and other birth family. This connection can be promoted in different ways which can include ongoing face to face time or through regular exchanges of letter updates and photograph. This we often refer to as letterbox contact.

We have a dedicated social worker within the service who helps support children, adopters and their birth family members to stay connected by facilitating letterbox contact post adoption. In addition to this we have an experienced staff team who will develop post adoption support plans in partnership with everyone who is involved in supporting any ongoing direct relationships for a child with their birth family post adoption



Thank you for taking the time to read this information pack. Should you have any further questions or are ready to make an enquiry please contact a member of our team either by email duty@sw.glasgow.gov.uk or phone **0345 276 5555**.