

## What support can I get?

In Bolton we have two social workers whose main role is to support adopters. They run a course offering parenting advice, they see families individually and there is a newsletter twice a year.

There are also social events including an annual picnic, attending the pantomime together and a cheese and wine evening. We recognise that adopters gain a lot of support from the friendships they make with other adopters.

Accepting help is not a weakness. Most importantly, it may help an adoption to succeed.



## How can I take the next step to adopt a child?

We hope this information has been useful and will encourage you to think about adoption. We consider that applying to become an adoptive parent will be the start of a rewarding and meaningful process for you although we cannot guarantee approval.

If you decide to create a family and feel that you can offer the security and love that a child or children needs, please contact us to find out more at:

Bolton Adoption Team  
Email: [iwanttoadopt@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:iwanttoadopt@bolton.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01204 337480

Write to:  
Adoption Team Manager  
Endeavour House  
98 Waters Meeting Road  
The Valley  
Bolton  
BL1 8SW



**Bolton  
Council**

# Could you adopt?

Making space in your  
life for a child is an  
amazing thing to do.



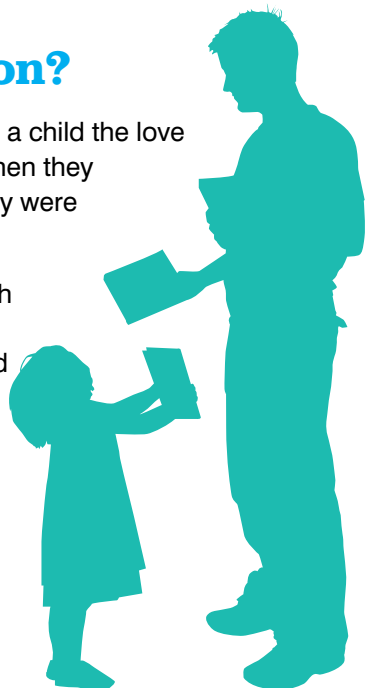
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## What is adoption?

Adoption is a way of giving to a child the love and security of a family life when they cannot live with the family they were born into.

It is a legal procedure in which all the parental rights and responsibilities are transferred to the adopters. Once an adoption order has been made by a court an adopted child loses all legal ties with their birth parents and they become a full member of the new family.

Adopting a child is a truly life changing decision for all involved.



## Who are the children who need adopting?

In the Greater Manchester area including Bolton approximately 200 children need parents to adopt them every year. We urgently need families to care for older children up to 10 years, sibling groups, children whose earlier neglectful experiences result in the need for consistent boundaries and whose challenging behaviour will require patience and understanding. These children come from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds.

## Who can adopt these children?

### Can I adopt...

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If I am not married? Yes

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If I don't have a partner? Yes

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If I am gay/lesbian? Yes

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If I am over 40? Yes

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If I have a birth child/ren? Yes

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If I have a criminal record? Depends – will discuss

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If I have a health condition? Depends – will discuss

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If I have a disability? Yes

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If I've had infertility treatment? Yes but after a 6-12 month gap

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If I am unemployed? Yes

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People think we are looking for so called 'special people' to adopt but what children really need are ordinary families who can provide love and security and an ability to be consistent, understanding and open minded.



## What is the application process for adopting a child?

- Express an interest
- The home visit
- Police checks, health checks and statutory references
- Making an application
- Preparation and training groups
- The assessment report
- Medical examination
- The adoption panel
- Matching you to a child
- Placement of a child
- The adoption order made in court

The adoption process is like stepping stones and each one is a goal to reach.