

Action for Children adoption services

Finding and supporting adoptive families



Contact us

Our fostering, family-based short breaks and adoption projects are located throughout the UK. You can find a current list of our projects on our website at www.actionforchildren.org.uk/childrenincare

Action for Children Adoption

Talk to us: 0845 355 5533

Email: adoption@actionforchildren.org.uk

Action for Children Black Families

Talk to us: 0845 603 3398

Email: blackfamilies@actionforchildren.org.uk

www.actionforchildren.org.uk/childrenincare

Action for Children

Action for Children is committed to helping the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK break through injustice, deprivation and inequality. We help over 156,000 children, young people and their families through around 420 projects across the UK. This includes our innovative portfolio of:

- fostering
- family centres
- schools
- transition services
- short breaks
- residential care services
- care leavers services

As one of the UK's leading children's charities, our priority is to put children at the heart of everything we do. Our goal is to always be there for vulnerable children and young people, for as long as it takes to make a real difference in their lives.

as long as it takes

Registered charity nos. 1097940/SC038092 Company no. 4764232

Photographs: Action for Children/Barry Willis

Produced by Action for Children 10/2009. 09/10 0390



as long as it takes

Action for Children adoption services

Action for Children has a long history of finding families who can provide safe and caring homes and providing support for vulnerable and hard to place children and young people in the UK.

Working together with commissioners, we transform lives and achieve positive outcomes through careful matching and the provision of effective support to adopters, carers, children and their families. As one of the UK's leading children's charities, our priority is to put children at the heart of everything we do. We are always there for children, for as long as it takes.

Our vision

We are ambitious for children who cannot live with their birth families, and passionate about helping them to enjoy the same life chances as other children and young people so they can achieve their full potential. Our vision for

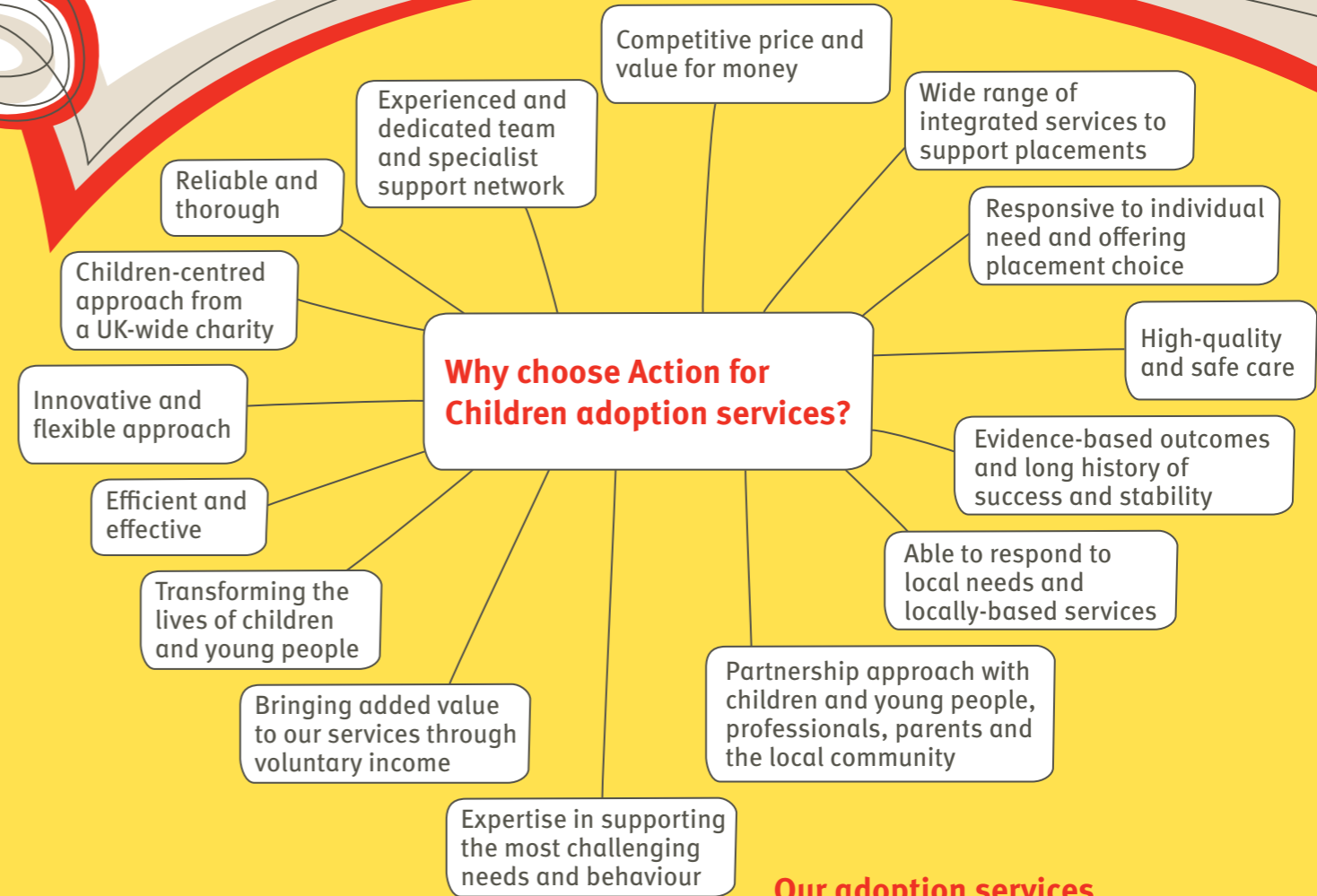
our services to children in care builds upon our enduring aim, throughout our 140-year history, which is to meet the needs of this most vulnerable and disadvantaged group of children and young people.

Our values

Passion – we are driven by our desire to help children and young people overcome injustice and disadvantage

Equality – we believe all children and young people have equal worth and equal rights

Hope – we believe in a child or young person's potential, no matter what they have experienced or what they have done



Our adoption services

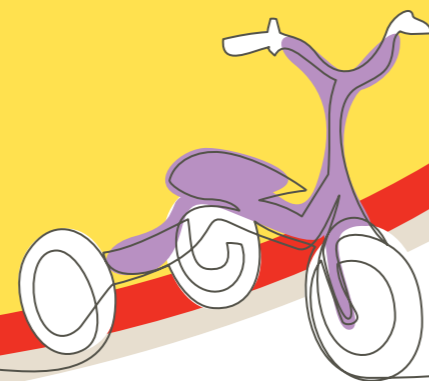
Our adoption services find homes and families for children who, for various reasons, cannot grow up with their birth family.

We find adoptive families for:

- ▶ children of all ethnic backgrounds and ages including white and black children from Asian, African-Caribbean, African and mixed-parentage backgrounds
- ▶ disabled children and children with a developmental uncertainty
- ▶ brother and sister groups of all ages and ethnicities
- ▶ single children aged four and older

Action for Children was one of the first approved adoption agencies and we have made a positive difference to the lives of thousands of children, young people and their families. We are an experienced and well-established voluntary agency that offers a wide range of services to commissioners.

Action for Children's success in adoption work is reflected in our disruption rates, which are one of lowest in the UK at only 3% against a national average of 25% to 30% for this group of children and young people



Teresa's story

Teresa says: 'I adopted as a single adopter through Action for Children over two years ago. I have had practical support, advice, help and reassurance every step of the way. Knowing someone is at the end of the phone to talk about things is great. I've also been to preparation courses and had introductions to local support groups – it's made all the difference.'

Adoption – what we offer:

Assessments/assessing needs of adoption services	A wide range of assessments for adoption or permanent carers, step-parent adoption, special guardianship, relatives in care proceedings and foster carers wishing to adopt. In addition, we are able to undertake independent assessment of the adoption support needs of adoptive parents, adoptive children, children of an adopted parent and birth families
Chairing supervisory services	Experience in chairing meetings where independence is important, including disruption meetings. We are able to supervise placements on behalf of the commissioner
Independently supporting birth relatives in pre-adoption placements	Independent support for birth relatives in pre-adoption placements, providing statutory support and supervision when a child is placed in a permanent family. This service is particularly helpful if the placement is at a distance from the placing authority
Support for birth parents, siblings and other significant adults	Support for birth parents, helping them understand their role in the adoption plan, maintaining contact or assessing adoption needs. A similar service is offered to siblings, grandparents and other significant adults
Managing and facilitating contact	Experience in managing and facilitating contact arrangements for families, including 'post-box' services, direct contact, reviews of arrangements as needs change or counselling them at the point of search and reunion. We can offer advice, guidance, training and reviews about managing all types of contact
Supporting adoptive families and providing discrete support packages	Intensive and time-limited support to adoptive families at key times and packages of support and family intervention. Discrete packages of individual support and family intervention on behalf of commissioners, including exploring a child's background and explaining adoption in an age-appropriate way, and helping them to develop techniques to manage demanding or disruptive behaviour
Providing support groups and social events	Support groups and social events for adoptees and adoptive families, including groups for single adopters, teenagers, black families, male adopters, families of disabled children, and gay and lesbian adopters
Developing life stories	Our experience shows that adopted children need to participate in life story work at different stages, and we can do this work or help local authority staff to develop and share the value of life stories
Supporting and counselling adults post-adoption	Support and counselling for adults who have been adopted, assisting with search and reunion as required, including Schedule 2 counselling and training local authority staff in providing this or in accessing records
Training adopters	A wide range of training for adopters as tailor-made packages or on existing courses, including full preparation training, planning for introductions, managing the early stages of placement and transition, valuing and managing contact, explaining adoption and revisiting the past, promoting positive identity, caring for abused children, infertility issues and managing difficult behaviour. We can provide training to social workers in all aspects of adoption practice and legislation



Children and families from black and minority ethnic backgrounds

We believe that children need families who can help them understand their own culture, language and religion. Our services work with adoptive families from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. We also run specialist services that focus on finding families for children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

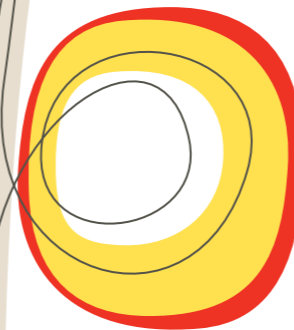
Find an adopter

If you are looking for an adoption placement, you can download our current list of adopters from www.actionforchildren.org.uk/findanadopter

Adoption fees

Specialising in the most hard to place and vulnerable children and young people, our placements are supported by a specialist support network, a range of integrated services and an experienced team. Transforming the lives of children and young people, the placements not only offer value for money, but also real outcomes and a child-centred environment.

As part of the BAAF/CVAA consortium, we abide by the national rate for adoption placements. Depending on the needs of individual commissioners, we are willing to consider a variety of financial arrangements for other parts of our adoption services (for example, a local authority may request a contract for regular pieces of work). Service level agreements can be negotiated that can include specifically recruited staff.





Some of the key areas our services focus on include:

Evidence-based outcomes and a long history of success and stability

Our commitment to working effectively with the most challenging children and young people has enabled us to achieve consistently excellent outcomes for them. We work towards the main principles central to Every Child Matters:

- ▶ in England: Every Child Matters
- ▶ in Northern Ireland: Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge
- ▶ in Scotland: Getting it Right for Every Child
- ▶ in Wales: Children and Young People: Rights to Action

Our dedication to working effectively with vulnerable and traumatised young people has enabled us to achieve low disruption rates for young people who have had frequent placement moves prior to admission, as well as a high level of continuity in placements.

Responsive to individual need and offering placement choice

We offer a range of high-quality placements that provide flexibility and choice for commissioners, so they can meet the complex and diverse needs of children and young people in care. Our determination and passion has enabled us to find homes for thousands of the most hard to place children.

Wide range of integrated services to support placements

Action for Children's work also includes services to support families, disabled children and young people, and we offer a wide range of consultancy services. Based

on our experience and best practice, we are continually integrating our services and building on our successes in delivering family-finding services.

High-quality and safe care

We are committed to the safe care of children, young people, their families, carers and staff. This commitment means that everything we do is designed to promote the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people we work with, as well as children and young people in general. We believe that safer care and good practice are best promoted by staff who are valued and supported in the work they do. We use a thorough selection process, and continue to train, encourage and appropriately manage and support all our staff.

Able to respond to local needs with locally-based services

We benefit from having a UK-wide resource combined with local knowledge. This helps us to develop expert services that are tailored to the specific needs of the area.

Partnership approach with children and young people, professionals, parents and the local community

In addition to keeping commissioners fully informed about our placements and liaising closely with the placement team, we also engage with children and young people. Our projects offer regular activities to young people and carers to encourage participation and development.



Adoption service locations:

Covering South East and London

Action for Children Adoption South East
Talk to us: 01403 225916
Post: 158 Crawley Road, Roffey, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4EU

Covering London, Midlands, North

Action for Children Adoption Black Families
Talk to us: 020 7582 3687
Post: 12 Hackford Walk, Hackford Road, London SW9 0QT

Covering the Midlands

Action for Children Adoption Midlands
Talk to us: 0121 355 1265
Post: Princess Alice Drive, Chester Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6RD

Covering South West

Action for Children Adoption and Fostering South West
Talk to us: 0117 300 5360
Post: Weir House, 93 Whitby Road, St Phillips, Bristol BS4 4AR

Covering the North East and North West

Action for Children Adoption Yorkshire
Talk to us: 0113 205 8570
Post: Unit 2, Milestone Court Business Park, Town Street, Stanningley, Leeds LS28 6HE

Our access to records services cover the whole of the UK. For further details please speak to the following projects:

- ▶ Scotland – Action for Children Adoption Yorkshire
- ▶ South Wales – Action for Children Adoption and Fostering South West
- ▶ North Wales – Action for Children Adoption and Fostering Midlands