

Children & Family Services

Adoption

What do we do?

Children and young people come from all types of backgrounds. They all need to grow up as part of a loving family that can meet their needs for security, stability and quality care throughout childhood and into adulthood. Where children are unable, for whatever reason, to live within their own birth family, a range of services and resources will be provided, designed to assist families in resuming the care of their children. Where that is not possible, the Council aims through its Adoption Service to find permanent alternative families who will promote the child's well-being and development by providing the highest possible standards of care according to his or her individual assessed needs.

Who is the service for?

The service welcomes people who are considering adoption, from all walks of life, and includes people from differing ethnic backgrounds, cultures and religions. What is needed is for you to be able to offer a child a stable, loving home until that child becomes independent. You should be able to understand and provide for the child's needs and help them reach their full potential.

To apply, you **don't** have to be:

- **Married** - you can be single, married or in a relationship. Your sexuality is irrelevant. The main thing is that your home life is stable.
- **Under 40** - Would-be-adoptive parents are looked at on their own merits. Age is only one of many factors that is considered in assessing whether adoption is right for you. We welcome people from of all ages who feel they can offer a child a secure home life.
- **Wealthy** - you don't have to earn a particular amount of money to consider adoption. We will be able to tell you more about this and what help you may be able to receive.

However you **do** have to be:

- **Committed** - the adoption process is very rigorous so you will need to be sure that adoption is the right thing for you. We are there to help you consider all the issues and support you through the process.
- **Interested** - you must show a real interest in children and be prepared to invest time and energy in developing your relationship with an adopted child.
- **Aware** - that adopting a child is very rewarding, but can also be challenging. You will need to accept that an adoptive child has a past and that it can be important for a child to retain links with his or her birth family.

How can I find out more?

Telephone: 02920 350954,

Email: adoption@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Website; www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk <<http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/>>.

Follow links for 1) Our community2)Children/families3)Adopting a child

This leaflet is also available in other languages and in large print and other formats upon request.

Ref: FSA1

