



## DFW Adoption Press Release for National Adoption Week



It has to be **NOW!**

Children's lives can't be kept on hold

Adoptive parents needed

'**We**' want to hear from you

We are 32 Voluntary Adoption Agencies which work all over the UK and Isle of Man and there is likely to be at least one agency based near you, and probably several others that cover your area.

Visit us on [dfw.org.uk](http://dfw.org.uk)  
email us [office@dfw.org.uk](mailto:office@dfw.org.uk)  
call us [0191 3863719](tel:01913863719)

We operate a help and advice line every afternoon from 1 o' clock and will quickly respond to your enquiry.

There is a **V**oluntary **A**doption **A**gency near you waiting for your call.

**A call can change a child's life.**

Childhood is short and if we do not work together now a child could easily spend their lives in care without loving parents to look after them.

### Did you know?

- 20% of people who adopt, do so via a Voluntary Adoption Agency (VAA)
- VAAs placed over 600 children for adoption last year
- Over 94% of VAA adoptions are successful
- VAAs place children from all over the UK
- VAAs welcome individuals and couples from all communities and from all walks of life

### What do adopters say?

- 'The service from our VAA was welcoming, efficient and totally professional'

- 'It has been a hard slog sometimes but we have become so happy, I can't thank you enough'
- 'We wish we'd done this years ago'

### What do Voluntary Adoption Agencies offer?

- Choice for those interested in adoption
- A speedy initial response; emails and telephone calls answered daily
- An informative and welcoming initial discussion; you don't have to be certain that adoption is for you, just interested to know more
- A professional, transparent service at each stage, from application, to preparation, onto a placement of a child or children, and thence into the future whenever advice or support is needed

### What can you do?

- Check out [www.cvaa.org.uk](http://www.cvaa.org.uk), contact an agency near you...**NOW**

### KEY FACTS:

- The Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies represents 32 agencies throughout the UK who offer a range of adoption and adoption support services
- In 2010-11 the VAAs provided adopters for over 25% of all the children adopted in that year
- VAAs have a consistently high success rate; over 94% for each of the last 5 years
- VAAs employ over 300 staff in the delivery of adoption and adoption support services, the majority being highly experienced
- Ofsted rates many VAAs as 'Outstanding'
- Within the wider context, the latest national statistics on Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England produced by the Department for Education were released on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and evidence that; there were 65,520 looked after children as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, an increase of 2% from 2010 and an increase of 9% from 2007
- Latest figures indicate that children needing to be placed for adoption wait an average of 2 years 7 months for that to be achieved. VAAs are working to decrease that time by recruiting families ready to meet the needs of those children. Such focussed work is resulting in most adopters approved by VAAs being matched very quickly with a child or children.
- However there has been a decrease in the number of looked after children placed for adoption, down from 2,720 in 2007 to 2,450 in 2011
- There is an urgent need to encourage more prospective adopters to come forward; otherwise the delays children experience in finding a permanent family will continue to grow, and those children will continue to suffer unacceptable levels of uncertainty, disruption, and damage.

Contact details: [office@dfw.org.uk](mailto:office@dfw.org.uk) 0191 3863719



