

Returning Adopters Criteria

Adopting again

The Surrey Adoption Service welcomes enquiries from adopters who have already adopted a child or children and will take account of:

- The length of time their adopted child has living as part of their family. (As a general rule we expect a 2 year minimum period.)
- Are the adopters hoping to adopt the sibling of a child already living as part of their family?
- Have legal proceedings in relation to other children been completed?
- The age and needs of the child or children already in the family.
- The age and needs of child the adopters are seeking to adopt.
- Whether there are major milestones coming up for the child already living in the family (such as starting school).
- Anything else currently happening for the family.
- Agency needs and those of our partners (we work closely with colleagues in East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove).

The process we follow with respect to returning adopters is as follows:

- Initial enquiries are recorded by our referral and recruitment officer.
- An office appointment is offered and a brief report (including adopter comments) is written.
- A decision is taken by the service whether to invite a registration of interest.
- Following receipt of the registration form, a stage 2 plan is completed and the assessment is undertaken within a 'fast track' process.
- We update previous checks notably health assessment and DBS (where these have expired or will do so within a year).
- The assessment will include visits with all members of the family.
- Referees are contacted and asked to tell us about changes since the first application, and to comment on the applicant's capacity to welcome a further child to their family.

- The completed prospective adopter's report is shared with the applicants and any amendments agreed.
- Case proceeds to panel within 4 months.

Preparing to adopt again

There is usually no requirement to attend preparation groups unless the previous application was 5 or more years ago or the applicants would benefit from revisiting the content of the groups.

Opportunity will be provided to meet other adopters who have adopted a second time and any additional preparation that the social worker and applicants agree would assist them is provided.