

# COULD YOU ADOPT?

What kind of people adopt children? According to research undertaken for the Department for Education, the people who are most likely to consider adopting a child are those who volunteer, work in the voluntary sector and those who are involved in their local communities. People who care about their society. People just like you.

With more young people than ever coming into the care system, the majority due to abuse or neglect, the need for adoptive parents is even greater. Unfortunately the number of children for whom adoption is the ideal outcome far outstrips the number of available adopters. For many families and individuals, adoption is an incredible and life-enriching experience - to be able to give child a home, a future, a chance.

So what is stopping you coming forward? There are still many myths surrounding adoption and who is eligible to adopt. You might think that you are not allowed to adopt because you are single, have a full time job, are over 40, a smoker or gay and have quickly ruled yourself out. However, the majority of adoption agencies are extremely flexible and actually, you may be exactly the type of person they are looking for.

Existing myths do not just extend to the type of person who would make a good adoptive parent but also to the level support available and how complicated the process is. Over the last 2 years, the Government have made many positive changes to the adoption system and there is now an unprecedented level of support available both financial and emotional for adopters pre, during and post adoption. The government has recently allocated £19.3 million to create an Adoption Support Fund providing post-adoption support for adoptive families.

The system and process of adoption itself has been radically simplified and there is now a national adoption gateway available which will be able to answer any questions or worries you may have about adoption and signpost you to your local adoption agencies and local authority.

So remember you are not too old, it doesn't matter if you already have children or are single, your income or sexuality is not relevant – what matters is could you give a child, whose parents cannot or should not look after them, a loving and safe home? If you think you can, please go to [www.first4adoption.org.uk](http://www.first4adoption.org.uk) to enquire quoting CP14.