***Strictly embargoed until Monday 15 October 2018***

**CHILDREN IN THE SOUTH WEST AWAITING ADOPTION OUTNUMBER ADOPTERS BY 2 TO 1 LATEST FIGURES SHOW**

New research from national adoption information service, First4Adoption, shows that the South West has nearly twice as many children awaiting adoptive families as there are adopters. The figures, based on the latest data reveals the region currently has 131 children waiting to be adopted and 69 families approved to adopt.

[name from agency] says, “This report highlights the on-going and urgent need to find adoptive families for children who desperately need them. Adoption transforms the lives of those it touches and this National Adoption Week we’re asking anyone who has ever thought about adoption to find out more. Whether you’re married, single, gay or heterosexual, if you think you might be able to give a vulnerable child a loving home, please get in touch”.

The new research, by Adoption Match and based on data from The Adoption Register for England\* also reveals that of the children awaiting adoption:

* 67% are aged under 5 years
* 57% are boys
* 29% are Black and Minority Ethnic children
* 55% are in sibling groups of two or more

[name from agency] adds, “Children who come to adoption do so because their birth families are unable to care for them. Many of them have experienced neglect and trauma. All of these children need a loving, stable home. They need support and love to help them overcome their troubled backgrounds, make sense of who they are and grow up to be safe and secure. Being an adoptive parent can be challenging but it also brings great rewards.

If you’re interested in finding out more, please contact [agency] today”.

For more information about National Adoption Week or to arrange an interview with a [insert agency name] spokesperson contact [insert agency contact]

ENDS

Notes to Editors

\*October 2018 data based on information from Adoption Match which operates the Adoption Register for England on behalf of the Department for Education

Read the full report here<https://www.first4adoption.org.uk/library/statistics-on-children-awaiting-adoption>

**First4Adoption** is the national information service for adoption in England. Visit [www.first4adoption.org.uk](http://www.first4adoption.org.uk/)