



**ADOPTION
ENGLAND**

Strategy 2024 – 2027

ABOUT US

Adoption England is all of the 32 regional adoption agencies working together, supported by a small central team who work nationally.

OUR PLAN

A strategy is a plan that includes both your goals and how you will achieve them. This is our plan for how we aim to improve and modernise the adoption system in England



adoptionengland.co.uk



WHY DOES ADOPTION NEED TO MODERNISE?

While adoption isn't the right choice for all children who can't live with their birth family, for some children it is the best choice, giving them the chance to live in a permanent family, in a loving environment where they feel they belong and can grow up feeling secure and supported to achieve their full potential.

Because of this it is very important that our adoption system changes to respond to the changing needs of children and families in a modern world.

OUTCOMES

There are five key things we aim to improve, we call these 'outcomes'.

DIVERSITY

OPENNESS

DELAY

VOICE

SUPPORT



HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR OUTCOMES?

Diversity

- **Increase diversity on adoption panels and in staff teams**
- **Raise awareness and understanding about adoption with diverse communities**
- **Learn from research and trial projects about what works best**

Openness

- **Train staff and adopters on the importance of supporting and maintaining important relationships for children who are adopted.**
- **Use modern technology to help children, young people, adopters and birth families to stay in touch**
- **Make sure all children and young people have as much information as possible about their adoption story**
- **Plans for maintaining relationships for children are creative and individual**

Delay

- **Reduce the time it takes for children to be 'matched' with the right adoptive family for them**
- **Increase the use of 'early permanence' - where children move in with their adoptive family earlier rather than staying longer in foster care**
- **Use research to better understand why there are more delays for some children**
- **Work with the people who make decisions about adoption plans, such as social workers and judges, to help decisions happen more quickly**



Voice

- **Create more opportunities for young people to meet locally and have a say on the services they use, what's good and what could be better**
- **Increase the training and skills for staff to really hear and respond to young people's experiences**
- **Create ways for young people to come together from different regions, to maximise their voice and their influence on the adoption system nationally**
- **Increase work with adopted adults and birth families to share their views about key areas for change**

Support

- **Every child and family has an adoption support plan that is individual to them and their needs**
- **Work with others, such as schools and health services, to make sure every child/family gets the support they need from the right place at the time they need it**
- **Find more ways to make the support available the same, no matter where you live**
- **Involve particular groups, such as black young people, to better understand the specific support they may need**