



# Mabwysiadu

Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

# Adoption

Mid & West Wales

## Pecyn Gwybodaeth Mabwysiadu



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Croeso i Wasanaeth Mabwysiadu Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru sy'n cynrychioli Sir Gaerfyrddin, Sir Benfro, Ceredigion a Phowys.

Rydym yn gwybod pa mor bwysig yw'r dasg o ofalu am blant, ac yn deall bod dod i benderfyniad ynghylch mabwysiadu yn gallu newid eich bywyd chi a'ch teulu.

Efallai eich bod wedi bod yn meddwl am fabwysiadu ers tro, ond nad ydych yn siŵr a yw mabwysiadu'n iawn i chi.

Rydym yn deall bod gennych lawer o gwestiynau, siŵr o fod, a byddem yn eich annog i gymryd y cam nesaf a siarad ag aelod o'r tîm mabwysiadu.

Byddwch yn dod o hyd i ddigon o wybodaeth yn y pecyn hwn ynghylch dod yn rhiant/rhieni mabwysiadol. Gobeithiwn y bydd o ddefnydd i chi ac yn rhoi'r wybodaeth angenrheidiol.

Gallwch wneud ymholiad i unrhyw asiantaeth fabwysiadu ac nid ydych wedi'ch cyfyngu i wneud cais i'r Awdurdod Lleol yn yr ardal yr ydych yn byw ynddi. Er hynny, dim ond ag un asiantaeth fabwysiadu y gallwch gael eich cofrestru ar unrhyw un adeg. Dylech roi gwybod am eich ymholiad a/neu unrhyw gais a wrthodwyd i unrhyw asiantaeth pan fyddwch yn gwneud cais neu ymholiad dilynol.



## **Beth yw'r gwahaniaeth rhwng maethu a mabwysiadu?**

Ystyr **Mabwysiadu** yw pan fo plentyn yn dod yn aelod parhaol cyfreithlon o'ch teulu a phan mai chi fydd â'r cyfrifoldeb llawn fel rhiant y plentyn. Gall yr Awdurdod Lleol ddarparu dewis o wasanaethau cefnogi mabwysiadu drwy gytundeb â rhieni mabwysiadol, ond does dim goblygiad cyfreithlon i'r mabwysiadwyr eu derbyn os nad ydynt eisiau gwneud hynny.

**Mabwysiadu o Wlad Arall** – Bydd Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru yn darparu gwasanaeth i bobl sydd eisiau mabwysiadu plentyn o wlad arall. Bydd y meini prawf cymhwysedd a'r ystyriaethau yn ôl disgrisiwn yn cael eu pennu gan ofynion penodol y wlad yr ydych yn bwriadu mabwysiadu oddi wrthi.

**Maethu** – Darparu amgylchedd diogel a gofalgwr yn eich cartref eich hun i blentyn neu berson ifanc yw maethu, pan nad yw teulu'r plentyn yn gallu gwneud hynny am ryw reswm. Gallai hyn fod am gyfnod byr neu gyfnod hir, neu hyd yn oed yn ystod argyfwng am ychydig o ddyddiau.

Mae gan yr Awdurdod Lleol neu riant/rhieni biolegol y plentyn gyfrifoldeb rhianta dros y plentyn a gall y rhiant/rhieni fod yn rhan o fywyd y plentyn drwy fod mewn cysylltiad ag ef a gwneud penderfyniadau ar ei ran.

Ni ddylai cais am faethu gael ei wneud fel modd o gyrraedd at fabwysiadu. Fodd bynnag, ceir rhai sefyllfaoedd, yn enwedig yn ystod achosion llys hirfaith, pan gall darpar fabwysiadwyr plentyn/plant penodol gael eu hystyried i'w cymeradwyo fel gofalgwr maeth, hyd nes bod y broses fabwysiadu wedi ei chwblhau'n foddhaol.



# Y Plant

## **Pam y mae ar blant angen cael eu mabwysiadu?**

Fel arfer, mae plant sydd ag angen teuluoedd parhaol, eisoes "mewn gofal" gyda gofalwyr maeth. Ni fyddant, am ryw reswm neu'i gilydd, yn gallu dychwelyd i'w rhieni biolegol. Bydd rhai plant wedi cael eu hesgeuluso, wedi cael bywyd cythryblus iawn, neu wedi cael eu cam-drin yn gorfforol neu'n rhywiol. Gall esgeulustod emosiynol fod mor niweidiol ag esgeulustod corfforol a rhaid i blant aiddysgu sut i deimlo'n ddiogel a sut i ymddiried eto.

## **Pwy yw'r plant?**

Mae miloedd o blant ar gael i'w mabwysiadu ar unrhyw adeg benodol yn y DU. Mae'r niferoedd o fabanod yn mynd yn llai y dyddiau hyn, ond o bryd i'w gilydd mae galw am deuluoedd i blant rhwng 0 a 3 blwydd oed.

Fodd bynnag, mae ar lawer o blant eraill angen teuluoedd parhaol. Mae'r rhain naill ai yn blant unigol 3 oed a hŷn neu'n grwpiau teuluol ag arnynt angen lleoliad gyda'i gilydd.

Bydd rhai ohonynt o wahanol gefndiroedd diwylliannol, neu â rhieni cymysg ag angen teuluoedd arnynt sy'n gallu adlewyrchu eu treftadaeth ddiwylliannol a/neu grefyddol.

Mae gan lawer o'r plant anghenion emosiynol ac ymddygiadol ac mae gan rai ohonynt anabledau corfforol a/neu ddysgu.

Mae'n ddigon posibl fod plant sydd wedi eu cyflwyno ar gyfer eu mabwysiadu wedi treulio amser mewn nifer o leoliadau maethu, ac efallai mai symud at deulu sy'n eu mabwysiadu yw'r newid mawr diweddaraf yn eu bywyd. Maent yn debygol o gael trafferth adeiladu perthynas ac efallai bod ganddynt broblemau emosiynol ac ymddygiadol a bod arnynt angen llawer o feithrin, magu a sylw i'w helpu i ddod dros eu profiadau blaenorol ac i'w helpu i deimlo'n ddiogel.

## **Beth am deulu biolegol y plentyn?**

Mae'n naturiol ac yn gywir bod plentyn eisiau gwybod am ei deulu biolegol. Rydym yn credu ei bod yn bwysig bod plant sydd wedi eu mabwysiadu'n tyfu i fyny yn gwybod eu bod wedi eu mabwysiadu, ac mae'r gyfraith yn caniatáu iddynt, cyn gynted ag y byddant yn 18 oed, gael gafael ar eu cofnodion geni gwreiddiol.

Yn gynyddol mae plant sy'n cael eu cyflwyno ar gyfer eu mabwysiadu, yn cadw rhyw fath o gyswllt â'u teulu biolegol. Gall hyn fod:



- yn gysylltiad uniongyrchol, yn enwedig â brodyr a chwiorydd, ond hefyd â mam-gu a thad-cu ac aelodau eraill o'r teulu, gan gynnwys rhieni biolegol,
- yn gysylltiad anuniongyrchol drwy lythyrau, ffotograffau ac yn y blaen, a gellir hwyluso hyn gan y teulu mabwysiadol neu drwy system 'blwch post'.
- gyda gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn ymddwyn fel eiriolwyr.

Bydd eich teimladau a'ch safbwyntiau ynghylch hyn a'ch parodrwydd a'ch gallu i hyrwyddo cyswllt rhwng plentyn â'i rieni biolegol yn cael eu hystyried fel rhan o'r broses asesu.



## Pa fath o deuluoedd sydd eu hangen?

Mae angen amrywiaeth fawr o deuluoedd arnom i ddiwallu gwahanol anghenion y plant yr ydym yn eu lleoli ar gyfer mabwysiadu. Rydym yn chwilio am bobl a all roi teulu i blentyn drwy gydol ei blentyndod a thu hwnt i hynny. Gallwch fod yn sengl, yn briod, wedi ysgaru, yn ddi-blant neu'n rhieni yn barod. Gallwch fod yn gweithio neu'n ddi-waith. Beth bynnag yw eich sefyllfa, mae arnom angen i chi ddarparu cariad, diogelwch a sefydlogrwydd.

Yn gyfreithlon, rhaid i chi fod dros 21 mlwydd oed i fod yn rhiant mabwysiadol (ac eithrio llys-fabwysiadu, lle ceir rheolau gwahanol.)

Nid oes oedran penodol sy'n rhy hen ar gyfer mabwysiadu, ond rhoddir ystyriaeth i anghenion pob plentyn yn unigol, a'ch gallu chi i ddiwallu'r anghenion hynny drwy gydol ei blentyndod nes cyrraedd oedran oedolyn ifanc a thu hwnt. Yr ymgeisydd/ymgeiswyr sy'n ymddangos fel pe byddent yn diwallu'r anghenion hynny orau sy'n fwyaf tebygol o gael eu cynnig fel rhieni addas i fabwysiadu. Lle bynnag y bo'n briodol, mae'r Asiantaeth Fabwysiadu yn ystyried safbwyntiau'r teuluoedd biolegol; os yw'r rhieni biolegol yn dymuno bod eu plentyn yn cael ei fagu o fewn crefydd benodol, efallai.

Gall dysgu byw gyda theulu newydd olygu bod plant yn eich herio i'r eithaf. Gall plant sy'n cael eu lleoli ar unrhyw oedran, ddod ag amrywiaeth o ffyrdd o ymddwyn gyda nhw i deuluoedd, felly mae'n angenrheidiol cael stamina, amynedd a synnwyr digrifwch da!

Mae llawer o fabwysiadwyr yn aros i fabwysiadu ledled y DU, ac er bod yna lawer o blant yn aros am gartrefi parhaol yn aml, nid yw anghenion y plant a'r teuluoedd sydd ar gael i'w mabwysiadu'n cyfateb. Yn fwyaf aml, mae teuluoedd sy'n mabwysiadu'n gobeithio mabwysiadu plant bach iawn hyd at 2 flwydd oed, tro bo'r plant sy'n aros hwyaf am deuluoedd parhaol yn dueddol o fod dros 5 oed neu'n rhan o grŵp (teulu) o frodyr a chwiorydd sydd angen aros gyda'i gilydd. Mae'r sefyllfa yng Nghanolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru yn adlewyrchu'r darlun cenedlaethol hwn.

Mae croeso arbennig i fabwysiadwyr arfaethedig sy'n barod i ystyried plant dros 5 oed, neu sy'n dymuno mabwysiadu grwpiau o frodyr a chwiorydd neu blant o unrhyw oed ag anghenion arbennig.



Pan fo ymgeiswyr ond yn dymuno ystyried mabwysiadu babi neu blentyn sengl o dan 2 flwydd oed, efallai bydd angen gohirio'r cais er mwyn rhoi mwy o flaenoriaeth i asesu pobl sydd am fabwysiadu plant hŷn, grwpiau o frodyr a chwiorydd a phlant ag anabledau.

## **Pethau i'w hystyried**

### **Rhwydwaith cefnogi:**

Oherwydd y straen y gallech ei wynebu, yn ein barn ni mae'n gymorth cael cefnogaeth ffrindiau a theulu i'ch cynnal drwy'r cyfnodau anodd ac i rannu'r cyfnodau hapus â nhw.

### **Eich iechyd**

Bydd angen i chi fod yn gymharol iach gan fod gofalu am blant yn waith caled iawn. Os oes cyflwr meddygol arnoch yn barod, neu os ydych wedi neu'n parhau i ddioddef o gyflwr salwch meddwl a allai effeithio ar eich gallu i ymdopi â'r straen o ofalu, byddem yn argymhell eich bod yn gofyn am gyngor oddi wrth eich Meddyg Teulu a hefyd yn trafod hyn gyda'r Tîm Mabwysiadu.

### **Ysmygu**

Yng ngoleuni'r dystiolaeth gref o ran y niwed a achosir i blant drwy ysmygu goddefol (yn cynnwys pan nad yw'r ysmygu ym mhresenoldeb y plentyn) bydd ystyriaeth yn cael ei rhoi i faterion ysmygu o fewn yr asesiad o'ch addasrwydd. Ni fydd Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru yn gosod plant o dan bum mlwydd oed â mabwysiadwyr sy'n ysmygu ac oherwydd y risg ychwanegol, ni fydd plant â chyflyrau meddygol fel asthma, clefyd cynhenid y galon, ffeibrosis systig yn cael eu rhoi mewn cartref lle mae unrhyw un yn ysmygu.

### **Eich teulu a'ch cartref**

Mae sicrhau bod croeso i blentyn yn eich teulu'n cymryd amser ac egni sylweddol. Mae'n bwysig ystyried unrhyw ymrwymadau eraill a allai fod gennych – er enghraifft gofalu am aelodau eraill o'r teulu – eich plant eich hun neu berthnasau sy'n oedrannus.

Er nad oes rheolau ynghylch oedrannau unrhyw blant sy'n byw gyda chi, byddem yn argymhell fod yna o leiaf ddwy flynedd o fwllch rhwng unrhyw blant sydd eisoes yn eich teulu â phlentyn yr ydych yn dymuno ei fabwysiadu. Rydym hefyd yn credu ei bod yn bwysig ystyried safle (e.e. ieuengaf/hynaf) y plant yn eich teulu.

### **Ffrwythlondeb**

Dylai ymgeiswyr fod wedi cwblhau ymchwiliadau a thriniaeth cyn gwneud cais am fabwysiadu plentyn. Y rheswm am hyn yw'r straen emosiynol sy'n gysylltiedig â thriniaeth ffrwythlondeb a'r angen i ymgeiswyr fod yn barod i ymroi i fabwysiadu erbyn iddynt wneud eu cais. Rydym yn cyngori bod bwlch rhwng diwedd y driniaeth (neu'r penderfyniad i beidio â pharhau) a dechrau'r broses fabwysiadu, er mwyn rhoi amser i bobl brosesu'r golled a



dod i benderfyniad ystyriol i greu teulu drwy fabwysiadu. Ein cyngor presennol yw aros am gyfnod o 6 mis o leiaf, ond efallai'n hwy.

### **Ymrwymadau Gwaith**

Mae angen i unrhyw blentyn sydd wedi'i osod gyda theulu newydd gael cyfnod o amser i ymgartrefu a meithrin perthynas â'i rieni newydd. Yn arferol rydym yn disgwyl y bydd un riant gartref am o leiaf 6 mis ac mae cyfnod hwy yn well er mwyn cefnogi'r plentyn.

### **Amgylchedd y Cartref**

Er nad yw'n hanfodol bod ystafell wely ei hun gan blentyn sy'n cael ei leoli ar gyfer mabwysiadu, mae'n bwysig ystyried bod angen digon o le arno a hefyd ystyried anghenion eich plant eich hun.

Rhaid i ni fod yn fodlon bod eich cartref yn bodloni ein gofynion Iechyd a Diogelwch.

Mae anifeiliaid anwes gan lawer o fabwysiadwyr arfaethedig. Byddwn yn eich holi am eich anifeiliaid yn ystod y broses asesu a byddwn yn ystyried a yw'r anifail anwes yn debygol o beryglu'r plentyn.

### **Pwy na all fabwysiadu?**

Ni fyddem yn derbyn cais oddi wrthy ch os

- ydych (neu'r ddau ohonoch os ydych yn ymgeisio fel pâr) o dan 21 oed (yr eithriad yw llys-riant sy'n mabwysiadu lle dylai'r ddau riant biolegol fod o leiaf 18 oed a'r llys-riant dros 21).
- nad ydych (a lle bo'n gymwys un o bâr) yn preswyllo ar Ynysoedd Prydain (hynny yw y DU, Ynysoedd y Sianel neu Ynys Manaw)
- ydych neu unrhyw un yn eich cartref wedi'ch cael yn euog o droseddau penodol.
- na allwch chi na'ch partner ddangos eich bod yn byw mewn perthynas sefydlog a pharhaus.





## Y broses – Y Cam Ymholi

Os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn mabwysiadu drwy Wasanaeth Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru, gallwch ein ffonio, dod i noson wybodaeth (gweler ein gwefan) neu gael cyfarfod wyneb yn wyneb gydag aelod o'r Tîm. Yn dilyn trafodaeth gychwynnol, rhoddir ffurflen Mynegi Diddordeb i chi. Dyma'r cais ffurfiol i ddechrau'r broses fabwysiadu drwy ein Gwasanaeth. Byddwn yn rhoi gwybod i chi am ganlyniad eich ffurflen Mynegi Diddordeb cyn pen 5 diwrnod ar ôl i ni ei derbyn.

Mae'n bosibl y bydd angen dal eich ymholiad yn ôl tra bydd rhai archwiliadau pellach yn cael eu gwneud neu archwiliad meddygol yn cael ei drefnu, os oes pryder ynghylch eich iechyd. Efallai bod gennych achlysur pwysig o'ch blaen, priodas neu symud tŷ, neu efallai eich bod yng nghanol triniaeth ffrwythlondeb. Bydd aelod o'r Tîm Mabwysiadu'n gallu cynnig cyngor i chi o ran amseriad eich ymholiad.

## Y Broses - Cam Un

Bydd y Cam hwn yn cymryd 2 fis i'w gwblhau - ond mae'n bosibl y bydd yn cymryd hwy os bydd gwiriadau a geirdaon yn cymryd mwy o amser i gael eu dychwelyd. Bydd gennych weithiwr cymdeithasol dynodedig a fydd yn ymweld â chi gartref.

Byddwch yn cael gwahoddiad i fynychu Hyfforddiant Paratoi ar gyfer Mabwysiadu; cwrs pedwar diwrnod o hyd wedi ei gynllunio i roi gwybodaeth ychwanegol am fabwysiadu, yn ogystal â'r cyfle i chi ymchwilio'n ddyfnach i'ch addasrwydd i fabwysiadu. Mae'n bwysig nodi bod y cwrs hwn yn ffurfio rhan o'r asesiad o addasrwydd, a phan fyddwch yn ymgeisio fel pâr, mae disgwyl i'r ddau ohonoch fynychu'r sesiynau gyda'ch gilydd.

### **Gwiriadau a geirdaon**

Gofynnir i chi roi caniatâd ysgrifenedig i gynnal gwiriadau â'r asiantaethau canlynol - y Gwasanaeth Datgelu a Gwahardd, yr Awdurdod Iechyd, yr Awdurdod Lleol ac Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru.

Bydd gwiriadau'n cael eu gwneud ag unrhyw Awdurdodau Lleol eraill yr ydych wedi bod yn byw ynddynt ac os oes gennych blant eisoes, byddwn yn cysylltu â'r ysgol neu'r ymwelydd iechyd.

Bydd gofyn i chi gael asesiad meddygol llawn â'ch Meddyg Teulu eich hun. Pan fydd hwn wedi ei gwblhau bydd yn cael ei anfon at ymgynghorydd meddygol yr Awdurdod Lleol, a all gysylltu â'ch Meddyg Teulu neu unrhyw ymgynghorydd sy'n gysylltiedig â'ch achos. Byddwch yn cael eich cynghori



ynghylch unrhyw faterion sy'n berthnasol i iechyd a allai effeithio ar gael eich cymeradwyo fel rhieni mabwysiadol.

Os ydych chi'n gweithio un ai fel cyflogai sy'n cael ei dalu neu wirfoddolwr rheolaidd, bydd angen geirada oddi wrth eich cyflogwr neu asiantaeth bresennol.

Os ydych chi wedi bod yn gweithio neu'n gwirfoddoli o'r blaen ym maes gofal plant byddwn yn gofyn am eirada oddi wrth y cyflogwr hyn hefyd.

Bydd gofyn i chi hefyd ddarparu enwau tri chanolwr; rhaid bod dau ohonynt wedi eich adnabod ers o leiaf bum mlynedd, a rhaid bod un yn berthynas. Bydd rhaid i ni hefyd siarad ag unrhyw oedolion sy'n blant i chi. Bydd pob un o'ch canolwyr yn cael cais i ddarparu geirada ysgrifenedig am eich gallu i ofalu am blant a bydd eu geiradaon ysgrifenedig yn cael eu dilyn gan gyfweiliad yn eu cartref gyda'r Gweithiwr Cymdeithasol sy'n eich asesu.

Os ydych chi wedi bod yn briod o'r blaen, neu wedi bod mewn unrhyw berthynas hir dymor, yn enwedig perthynaslle y magwyd plant gennych, bydd angen i'r Asiantaeth gysylltu â'ch partneriaid blaenorol ynghylch eich gallu i ofalu am blant. Rydym yn gwerthfawrogi y gallech fod yn anhapus ynghylch y posibilrwydd o gysylltu â chyn-bartneriaid ac rydym yn deall y gall fod yna faterion o ran diogelwch personol i'w hystyried. Os ydych yn bryderus siaradwch ag aelod o'r tîm ynghylch hyn.

Ar ôl i'ch holl eiradaon a gwiriadau wedi'u dychwelyd, byddwn yn eu hadolygu ac os bydd popeth yn foddhaol, byddwn yn cytuno'n ffurfiol eich bod yn gallu mynd ymlaen i Gam 2.

## Y Broses - Cam Dau

Bydd Cam 2 yn ystyried eich cryfderau, eich addasrwydd, a'ch rhesymau dros fabwysiadu; bydd eich anghenion cymorth a'ch profiad o dyfu i fyny a sut yr ydych chi wedi delio ag unrhyw heriau neu ddigwyddiadau a achosodd straen yn eich bywyd hefyd yn cael eu hystyried. Os oes gennych blant eisoes sy'n byw gartref ai peidio, bydd angen cyfweiliad â nhw hefyd, neu bydd angen eu gweld gyda chi, gan ddibynnu ar oedran.

Bydd Cam 2 yn para tua 4 mis ac mae'n dechrau gyda chyfarfod cytundeb asesu gyda'ch gweithiwr cymdeithasol i gynllunio'r gwaith fydd yn angenrheidiol ar gyfer yr asesiad - fel arfer 6 chyfarfod yn wythnosol. Bydd disgwyl i chi fynychu hyfforddiant pellach. Ar ôl i'r cyfarfodydd gael eu cwblhau, bydd eich gweithiwr cymdeithasol yn cwblhau eich adroddiad asesu.

Bydd yn angenrheidiol i chi ddarparu gwybodaeth am unrhyw berthynas flaenorol arwyddocaol a ble yr ydych chi wedi bod yn cydfyw neu ofalu am blant gyda'ch gilydd; bydd rhaid i ni gyfweiliad â phartneriaid blaenorol. Fodd



bynag, rydym yn ystyrion o'r anawsterau y gall hyn eu cyflwyno ac mae'n rhaid i chi fod yn onest â ni ynghylch y sefyllfa i'n helpu i asesu ymarferoldeb hyn.

Os ydych yn gwneud cais fel pâr byddwn eisiau deall mewn cryn fanylder sut y mae eich perthynas yn gweithio. Bydd y Gweithiwr Cymdeithasol yn edrych ar eich ffordd o fyw, yn ogystal â'r gwerthoedd a'r agweddau sy'n dylanwadu arnoch chi a'ch teulu a'r ffyrdd y gall y rhain effeithio ar eich gofal dros blentyn mabwysiedig.

Rhaid i ni ymchwilio i'ch cymhelliad dros ystyried mabwysiadu a pham yr hoffech roi cartref i blentyn/plant mabwysiedig. Os yw hyn oherwydd nad ydych yn gallu cael plant biolegol eich hun bydd rhaid eich bod chi wedi cwblhau unrhyw driniaeth ffrwythlondeb cyn y gallwn ddechrau ar asesiad.

Byddwn hefyd yn edrych ar y cyswllt a gawsoch â phlant – a'ch profiadau fel rhiant, drwy weithio, gwirfoddoli neu ofalu am aelodau eraill o'r teulu.

Yn aml, bydd plant sydd ag angen lleoliad mabwysiadu wedi dioddef rhyw fath o drawma ac yn sicr wedi cael y profiad o golled a gwahanu yn ystod eu bywyd. Bydd hyn yn effeithio ar eu hymddygiad a'u potensial yn y dyfodol, a bydd rhaid i'r Gweithiwr Cymdeithasol drafod ymhellach â chi y mathau o ymddygiad y gallech un ai fod yn gallu eu derbyn a gweithio arnynt, neu beidio.

Bydd gofyn i chi feddwl am y goblygiadau ariannol o gynnig cartref parhaol i blentyn. Mewn rhai achosion gall lwfans mabwysiadu gael ei ystyried a'i ganiatáu gan yr Awdurdod Lleol, er nad oes yna 'hawl' awtomatig ac mae lwfansau mabwysiadu'n ddibynnol ar brawf modd ac yn seiliedig ar anghenion y plentyn.

Bydd gofyn i chi ystyried cysylltiad uniongyrchol neu anuniongyrchol rhwng y teulu biolegol a'ch plentyn/plant mabwysiedig. Gallai cysylltiad uniongyrchol gynnwys y plentyn/plant a fabwysiadwyd yn dod wyneb yn wyneb â'r rhieni biolegol neu aelodau eraill o'r teulu gan gynnwys brodyr a chwiorydd.

Gall cysylltiad anuniongyrchol gynnwys llythyrau/cardiau pen-blwydd rheolaidd yn cael eu hanfon at eich plentyn/plant mabwysiedig a bod rhai aelodau arbennig o'r teulu'n derbyn llythyr a ffotograff oddi wrthyh chi yn rheolaidd. Bydd unrhyw drefniadau'n cael eu trafod a chytuno arnynt cyn mabwysiadu. Byddwch yn cael y cyfle i ystyried a thrafod eich teimladau ynghylch y materion hyn gyda'r Gweithiwr Cymdeithasol sy'n cyflawni eich asesiad.

Os teimlwch y gallwch gymryd y cyfrifoldeb o ofalu am blentyn/blant ag anabledau, bydd rhaid i'r Gweithiwr Cymdeithasol sy'n eich asesu archwilio'ch sgiliau a'ch gallu i ofalu am blentyn o'r fath, a chynnig cyfleoedd



i chi herio eich potensial i gymryd y cyfrifoldeb o ofalu am blentyn ag anghenion cymhleth.

Yn ystod eich asesiad bydd gofyn i chi ddangos tystiolaeth o'ch potensial fel rhiant yn y meysydd canlynol:

- Gofalu am blant
- Darparu amgylchedd diogel llawn gofal
- Gweithio fel rhan o dîm
- Eich datblygiad eich hun

Bydd Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth â chi o ran eich asesiad addasrwydd. Rydym yn cytuno y byddwn yn gweithio mewn ffordd agored ac onest, gan gadw cyfrinachedd y wybodaeth a rannwch ac yn ymdrin â chi mewn modd sy'n dangos parch a sensitifrwydd-

Lles a hapusrwydd y plant yr ydym yn gweithio gyda nhw yw ein blaenoriaeth bennaf. Er y byddwn yn gweithio gyda chi i asesu pa mor addas ydych chi, nid oes gwarant y cewch chi eich cymeradwyo fel Mabwysiadwr yn dilyn hynny.

### **Pam y mae'n rhaid i ni gael yr holl wybodaeth hon?**

Mae mabwysiadu plentyn yn fwy o beth o lawer na chael eich plant eich hun.

Mae yna elfen ychwanegol o "iachau" yn rhan o fod yn rhiant mabwysiadol, gan y bydd gennych brif rôl i'w chwarae o ran helpu'r plentyn i ddod i delerau â'i brofiadau a cholledion.

Mae hyd yn oed babi sydd erioed wedi treulio amser gyda'i riant biolegol, ag angen delio â'r wybodaeth a'r dolur a ddaw o wybod bod ei riant biolegol wedi dewis ei roi i gael ei fabwysiadu neu wedi cael ei farnu'n anabl i fod yn rhiant. Rhaid gwerthfawrogi'n llawn bob amser yr effaith y gall hyn ei chael ar hunanhyder y plentyn – a hynny'n aml yn parhau ar ôl iddo dyfu'n oedolyn.

Mae'n gyffredin clywed datganiadau tebyg i'r canlynol gan oedolion a fabwysiadwyd, sydd wedi chwilio am gwnsela i ganfod rhagor am eu teuluoedd biolegol: "rwy'n caru fy nheulu mabwysiedig yn fawr iawn, ond mae'n rhaid i mi wybod pam y cefais fy mabwysiadu." Mae eraill yn mynegi pryderon yn aml bod y ffaith na chawsant ofal oddi wrth eu rhieni biolegol rywsut yn fai arnynt eu hunain. Mae pryderon ganddynt yn aml ynghylch sut mae eu teuluoedd biolegol wedi ymdopi â'u mabwysiadu.

Rhaid i rieni mabwysiadol archwilio'r teimladau hyn drostynt eu hunain a deall normalrwydd safbwyntiau o'r fath er mwyn helpu'r plentyn i dyfu i fyny'n gwybod pwy ydyw, gorau y gall. Os yw'r rhiant mabwysiedig yn



“gobeithio” na fydd ei blentyn yn cael teimladau o’r fath, ond nad yw’n trafod y materion hyn, mae’n debygol y bydd y plentyn yn tyfu i fyny gyda theimladau o’r fath, a gall fynegi ei ddieter yn allanol at fyd nad yw’n cydnabod ei ddryswch.

## **Y Panel Mabwysiadu**

Yn dilyn casglu’r holl wybodaeth a thystiolaeth asesu, bydd y Gweithiwr Cymdeithasol Mabwysiadu’n darparu adroddiad ysgrifenedig i chi gael ychwanegu sylwadau a’i arwyddo.

Yna bydd yr adroddiad yn cael ei gyflwyno i’n Panel Mabwysiadu i’w ystyried ar gyfer cymeradwyo pa mor addas ydych chi i fabwysiadu.

Mae’r Panel yn cwrdd unwaith neu ddwywaith y mis, ac mae aelodau’n cynnwys gweithwyr cymdeithasol, ymgynghorydd meddygol, person a fabwysiadwyd, rhiant mabwysiadol, a chynrychiolwyr eraill.

Byddwch yn cael gwybod am y dyddiad ac yn cael gwahoddiad i fynychu gyda’ch Gweithiwr Cymdeithasol.

Pan fydd y Panel wedi darllen yr adroddiadau a chael cyfle i gwrdd â chi, yn ogystal â gofyn unrhyw gwestiynau, byddant yn gwneud argymhelliad p’un a ydych yn ‘Addas i Fabwysiadu’. Mae Penderfynwr y Gwasanaeth yn derbyn yr adroddiadau a Chofnodion y Cyfarfod Panel, ac mae ganddo 7 niwrnod i wneud penderfyniad ynghylch argymhelliad y Panel. Byddwch yn cael gwybod beth yw argymhelliad y Panel o fewn 24 awr, ac yn cael eich hysbysu’n ysgrifenedig o fewn 14 diwrnod i benderfyniad yr Asiantaeth.

## **Beth sy’n digwydd os na chewch eich cymeradwyo?**

Os na fydd Penderfynwr y Gwasanaeth yn cytuno â’ch asesiad byddwch yn derbyn copi o’r rhesymau ac unrhyw argymhellion gan y Panel Mabwysiadu. Pe byddech yn dymuno cyflwyno sylwadau yn erbyn y penderfyniad, gallwch naill ai gyflwyno sylwadau i’r Panel Mabwysiadu neu wneud cais i’r Panel Adolygu Annibynnol ystyried eich asesiad. Ceir rhagor o wybodaeth am hyn ar gais.

## **Ar ôl cael eich Cymeradwyo**

Os cewch eich cymeradwyo fel darpar fabwysiadwyr bydd Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru yn ceisio eich paru â phlentyn. Os na chewch eich paru â phlentyn yng Nghanolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru cewch eich cyfeirio at Gofrestr Fabwysiadu Cymru ac o ganlyniad mae’n bosibl yr ystyrir eich paru â phlentyn/plant o ran arall o Gymru.



## **Cymorth i rieni sy'n mabwysiadu ac i blant a fabwysiadwyd.**

Bydd Gwasanaethau Cymorth Mabwysiadu ar gael i fabwysiadwyr a phlant sy'n byw gyda theulu sy'n eu mabwysiadu. Fel tîm Mabwysiadu rydym wedi ymroi i'ch cefnogi chi ar hyd eich taith fabwysiadu a gallwn gynnig cymorth mewn nifer o ffyrdd.

- Gwybodaeth a chyingor i unrhyw un mewn teulu sy'n mabwysiadu
- Grwpiau cymorth i'r rhai sy'n mabwysiadu
- Gwasanaethau i blant a all fod ag anghenion emosiynol, ymddygiadol neu seicolegol
- Gwaith a chymorth ynghylch hanes bywyd y plentyn i'w helpu i ddeall ei orffennol.

Cysylltwch â'r Tîm Mabwysiadu i gael rhagor o wybodaeth. Bydd aelod o'r tîm yn ymweld i asesu'ch sefyllfa bresennol i gael gwybod sut y gallwn ni helpu orau, neu i'ch cyfeirio i'r cyfeiriad cywir.

## **Cymorth ariannol**

Gall cymorth ariannol fod ar gael yn amodol ar anghenion y plentyn yr ydych yn ei fabwysiadu. Bydd eich sefyllfa ariannol yn destun prawf modd ac yn cael ei hadolygu'n flynyddol. Os yw eich amgylchiadau'n newid, gallai hyn olygu y bydd unrhyw gefnogaeth ariannol yn cynyddu neu'n gostwng, ond bydd parhau i dalu lwfansau'n dibynnu ar anghenion y plentyn rydych yn ei fabwysiadu.

Gall pob rhiant mabwysiadol i blentyn mabwysiedig o dan 18 oed a phob darpar fabwysiadwr sy'n cael ei baru â phlentyn, ofyn am asesiad ar gyfer cefnogaeth fabwysiadu.

Dyma rai sefyllfaoedd a all eich gwneud yn gymwys i gael cefnogaeth ariannol:

- Mae anghenion y plentyn yr ydych yn ei fabwysiadu yn fwy nag anghenion y plant eraill yn y gymuned
- Galluogi brodyr a chwiorydd i barhau i fyw gyda'i gilydd
- Sicrhau bod cysylltiad ag aelodau o'r teulu geni yn parhau
- Galluogi eich plentyn i barhau i fyw gyda chi

Os ydych yn credu y gall eich plentyn fod yn gymwys i gael cefnogaeth ariannol gallwch gysylltu â'r Tîm Mabwysiadu a fydd yn eich cynghori ynghylch y polisi "lwfans mabwysiadu" cyflawn ac yn gallu trefnu asesiad o'ch amgylchiadau ariannol os yw'n briodol.



Os ydych, ar ôl darllen y wybodaeth yn y pecyn hwn, yn penderfynu yr hoffech gael rhagor o wybodaeth, dychwelwch y ffurflen gais Ymweliad Cychwynnol (Mabwysiadu) amgaeedig at y canlynol:

**Rheolwr y Tîm Mabwysiadu  
Neuadd Brycheiniog  
Ffordd Cambria  
Aberhonddu,  
Powys, LD3 7HR**

**neu**

**Rheolwr y Tîm Mabwysiadu  
Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru  
Adeilad 3  
Spilman Street  
Caerfyrddin  
SA31 1LE**

**0300 30 32 505**

[ymholiadaumabwysiadu@sirgar.gov.uk](mailto:ymholiadaumabwysiadu@sirgar.gov.uk)





**Mabwysiadu**  
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru  
**Adoption**  
Mid & West Wales

# Adoption Information Pack



0300 30 32 505



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**Powys**



Gwasanaeth  
**Mabwysiadu**  
Cenedlaethol

National  
**Adoption**  
Service



Welcome to Mid and West Wales Adoption Service which represents Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Powys.

We know how important the task of caring for children is and understand that making the decision to adopt can be life changing for you and your family.

You may have been thinking about adoption for a while but be unsure whether becoming an adopter is right for you.

We understand that you probably have lots of questions and would encourage you to take the next step and talk to a member of the adoption team.

Within this pack you will find plenty of information about becoming an adoptive parent/s. We hope that you find it useful and informative.

You may make an enquiry to any adoption agency and are not confined to applying to the Local Authority in which you live, although you may only be registered with one adoption agency at any one time. You should declare your enquiry and/or any refusal for your enquiry to any agency to whom you make a subsequent application or enquiry.



## What is the difference between fostering and adoption?

**Adoption** means that a child becomes legally a permanent member of your family and you will have full parental responsibility for the child. The Local Authority may provide a range of adoption support services by agreement with adoptive parents, but there is no legal obligation for the adopters to accept them if they do not wish to.

**Intercountry Adoption** – Mid and West Wales Adoption Service will provide a service to people who wish to adopt a child from another country. The eligibility criteria and the discretionary considerations will be determined by the particular requirements of the country from which you intend to adopt.

**Fostering** is providing a safe and caring environment within your own home for a child or young person when their own family is unable to do so for some reason. This could be on a long or short term basis, or even for an emergency of a couple of days.

The Local Authority or child's birth parent/s have parental responsibility for the child and the parent/s may well be involved in ongoing contact and decision making for the child.

An application to foster should not be embarked upon as a means of achieving adoption. However, there are some situations, particularly when there are lengthy ongoing court proceedings, where prospective adopters for a particular child/ren, can be considered for approval as foster carers pending the satisfactory completion of the adoption process.



# The children

## **Why do children need adopting?**

Children who need permanent families are usually already “in care” and placed with foster carers. They will be unable, for one reason or another to return to their birth parents. Some children will have been neglected, have had very unsettled lives, or have been subject to physical or sexual abuse. Emotional neglect can be as damaging as physical neglect and children have to learn to feel secure and to trust again.

## **Who are the children?**

At any one time across the U.K. there are thousands of children available for adoption. The number of babies available nowadays is decreasing, but from time to time families for children aged between 0 and 3 years are needed.

However there are many other children needing permanent families. They are either single children aged 3 and over, or family groups who need to be placed together.

Some will be from different cultural backgrounds or be of mixed parentage and require families who can reflect their cultural and/or religious heritage.

Many of the children have emotional and behavioural needs and some may have physical and/or learning disabilities.

Children who are placed for adoption may well have spent time in several foster placements, and moving into an adoptive family may be the latest major change in their lives. They are likely to struggle to build relationships and may have emotional and behavioural difficulties and need a lot of nurturing and attention to help them recover from their earlier experiences and to help them feel secure.



## **What about the child's birth family?**

It is natural and right for a child to want to know about his or her birth family. We believe it important that adopted children grow up knowing about their adoption, and the law allows them, once they become 18 years old to have access to their original birth records.

Increasingly children, who are placed for adoption, retain some contact with their birth families. This may be:

- direct contact, particularly with siblings, but also with grandparents and other family members, including birth parents,
- indirect contact through letters, photographs etc. which may be facilitated by the adoptive family or through the 'post-box' system
- with social services acting as an intermediary.

Your feelings and views about this, and your willingness and ability to promote contact between a child and their birth parents will be considered as part of the assessment process.



## What kinds of families are needed?

We need a whole range of families to meet the varying needs of the children we place for adoption. We are looking for people who can provide a child with a family for the whole of their childhood and beyond. You may be single, married, divorced, child-less or already have children. You may be working or unemployed. Whatever your situation, we need you to be able to provide affection, security and stability.

Legally, you must be over the age of 21 years to become an adoptive parent (with the exception of step-parent adoption, where different rules apply.)

There is no maximum age for adopting, but consideration will be given to each child's individual needs, and whether you can meet these needs through childhood, into early adulthood and beyond. The applicant(s) who appears to best meet those needs are most likely to be proposed as a suitable match. Wherever appropriate the Adoption Agency takes into account the views of the birth families; perhaps if birth parents wish their child to be brought up in a particular faith.

Learning to live with a new family can mean that children may test you to the limit. Children placed at any age may present families with a whole range of behaviours, so adopters need stamina, patience, and a good sense of humour!

Across the U.K there are many of adopters waiting to adopt, and although there are many children waiting for permanent homes there is often a mismatch between the needs of the children and the adoptive families available. Most commonly adopters are hoping to adopt very young children up to the age of 2 years whereas the children who have the longest wait for permanent families tend to be aged over 5 or be part of a sibling (family) group who need to stay together. The situation in Mid and West Wales reflects this national picture.

**Prospective adopters who are willing to consider children aged over 5 years, or be wishing to adopt sibling groups or children of any age with special needs are particularly welcomed.**

Where applicants only wish to consider adopting a single baby or child under the age of 2, there may be a need to defer an application in order to give greater priority to the assessment of adopters for older children, sibling groups and children with disabilities.



## **Things to consider**

### **Support network:**

Because of the strains you might face, we believe that it is helpful to have the support of friends and family when the “going gets tough” and with whom you can share the good times.

### **Your health**

You will need to be in reasonably good health as caring for children can be very demanding. If you have a pre-existing medical condition, or have had or continue to have a mental health condition that might affect your ability to cope with the stresses of caring we would recommend that you seek the advice of your GP and also discuss it with a member of the Adoption team.

### **Smoking**

In the light of overwhelming evidence regarding the damage caused to children by passive smoking (including where the smoking is not in the presence of the child) consideration will be given to smoking issues within the assessment of your suitability. Mid & West Wales Adoption Service will not place children under the age of five with adopters who smoke and because of the additional risk, children with medical conditions such as asthma, congenital heart disease and cystic fibrosis will not be placed in a household where anyone smokes.

### **Your family & home**

Ensuring that a child is welcomed into your family takes considerable time and energy. It is important to consider any other commitments that you might have – for example caring for other family members – your own children or elderly relatives.

Whilst there are no rules about how old any children already living in your family need to be, we would recommend that there is a minimum of a two year age gap between any children already in your family and a child who you are wishing to adopt. We also believe that it is important to take into consideration the position (e.g. youngest/oldest) of the children in your family.

### **Fertility**

Applicants should have completed investigations and treatment before applying to adopt a child. This is because of the emotional stress involved in fertility treatment and the need for applicants to be ready to devote their energies to adoption by the time they make their application. We advise that there is a break between the ending of treatment (or making a decision not to continue) and starting the adoption process, to give people time to process this loss and come to a considered decision to build a family by adoption. Our current advice is to wait for a minimum period of 6 months but maybe longer.



## **Work Commitments**

Any child who has been placed with a new family needs a period of time to settle down and build relationships with their new parents. We normally expect that one parent will be home for at least 6 months and longer is preferable in order to be available for and to support the child.

## **Home Environment**

Whilst it is not essential that any child placed for adoption has their own bedroom, it is important to consider their need for space and also to consider the needs of your own children.

We have to be satisfied that your home meets our Health and Safety requirements.

Many prospective adopters have pets. You will be asked about your animals during the assessment process and consideration will be given as to whether any pet poses a risk to children.

## **Who cannot adopt?**

We would not accept an application from you if

- you (or both of you if applying as a couple) are under the age of 21 (the exception being a step-parent adoption where the birth parent should be at least 18 years and the step parent applicant is 21 or over).
- You (and where applicable one of a couple) is not domiciled in the British Isles (i.e The UK, Channel Isles or the Isle of Man)
- If you or anyone in your household have been convicted or cautioned for certain specified offences.
- You and your partner cannot demonstrate that you are living in a stable and enduring relationship.



## The Process – Enquiry Stage

If you are interested in adopting through the Mid and West Wales Service, you can make a phone call to us, attend an Information evening (check our website) or have a face to face meeting with one of the Team. Following an initial discussion, you will be given a Registration of Interest form (ROI). This is the formal application to begin the process of adoption through our Service. We will let you know the outcome of your ROI within 5 working days of receiving it.

It may be that your enquiry needs to be put “on hold” whilst some further investigations are made or a medical is arranged if there is concern about a health situation. It may be that you have a significant event on the horizon, a wedding or house move, or perhaps you are mid-way through fertility treatment. A member of the Adoption Team will be able to offer advice regarding the timing of your enquiry.

## The Process – Stage One

This Stage will take 2 months to complete – but may take longer if checks and references take more time to be returned. You will have an allocated social worker who will visit you at home.

You will be invited to attend Adoption Preparation Training; a four day course designed to provide additional information about adopting, whilst giving you the chance to explore in more depth whether adoption is right for you. It is important to note that this course forms a part of the suitability assessment and that where you are applying as a couple, both of you are expected to attend all the sessions together.

### **Checks and references**

You will be asked for your written permission for checks to be carried out with the following agencies –DBS, Health Authority, Local Authority and CSSIW (Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales)

Checks will be made with any other Local Authorities in which you have lived and if you already have children the school and or health visitor will be contacted.

You will be asked to undergo a full medical assessment with your own General Practitioner. Once this is complete it is sent to the Local Authority medical advisor, who may contact your GP or any consultant involved in your case. You will be advised of any health related issues that may affect your approval as an adoptive parent/s.





If you are working either as a paid employee or regular volunteer, a reference will be required from your current employer or agency.

If you have previously worked or volunteered in the field of childcare we will request a reference from these employers too.

You will also be asked to provide the names of three referees; two of whom must have known you for at least five years, and one who needs to be a relative. We will also need to talk to any adult children you may have. All your referees will be asked to provide a written reference about your ability to care for children and their written reference will be followed up by an interview in their home with your assessing Social Worker.

If you have been married before, or had any longstanding relationships, particularly where you have raised children together, the Agency will need to contact your previous partners to ask them about your ability to care for children. We appreciate that you may not be happy at the prospect of previous partners being contacted and we understand that there may be issues of personal safety to consider. If you are concerned please talk to a member of the team about this.

When all your references and checks have been returned, we will review them and if everything is satisfactory, we will formally agree that you can proceed to Stage 2.

## The Process – Stage Two

Stage 2 which will look at your strengths and suitability and your motivation to adopt; your support needs and your experience of growing up and how you have dealt with any challenges or stressful events in your life will also be considered. If you have children already either living at home or away they will also need to be interviewed, or depending on their age, seen with you.

Stage 2 will last around 4 months and begins with an assessment agreement meeting with your social worker to plan the work needed for the assessment – usually 6 meetings at weekly intervals. You will also be expected to attend further training. Once the meetings are completed your social worker will complete your assessment report (PAR).

It will be necessary for you to provide information about any previous significant relationships and where you have lived together or cared for children together; we will need to interview previous partners. We are sensitive, however, to the difficulties that this might present, and we need you to be honest with us about the situation to help us to assess the viability of this.



If you are applying as a couple we will want to understand in some detail the working of your relationship. The Social Worker will look into your lifestyle, as well as the values and attitudes which influence you and your family and the way these could affect your care of an adopted child.

We need to explore your motivation for considering adoption and why you would like to provide a home for an adopted child/ren. If this is because you are unable to have your own birth children you will need to have completed any fertility treatment you are undergoing before we can start an assessment.

We will also look at the contact that you have had with children – and your experiences as a parent, through work, volunteering or caring for other family members.

Children who need an adoptive placement will often have suffered some trauma and all will certainly have experienced separation and loss during their life. Their behaviour and future potential will be affected by this, and the Social Worker will need to explore further with you those behaviours you may or may not be able to accept and work with.

You will be asked to think about the financial implications of offering a child a permanent home. In some cases an adoption allowance can be considered and granted by the Local Authority, although there is no automatic 'entitlement' and adoption allowances are means tested and based on the needs of the child.

You will be asked to consider direct or indirect contact between the birth family and your adopted child/ren. Direct contact could involve the child/ren you have adopted having face to face contact with his/her birth parents or other family members including siblings.

Indirect contact could involve regular letters/birthday cards being sent to your adopted child/ren and for certain birth family members receiving a letter and photograph from you on a regular basis. Any arrangements will be discussed and agreed prior to adoption. You will have the opportunity to consider and discuss your feelings around these issues with the Social Worker carrying out your assessment.

Should you feel that you can take on the care of a child/ren with disabilities, your assessing Social Worker will need to explore your skills and abilities to care for such a child, and offer opportunities for you to challenge your own potential to take on the care of a child with complex needs.



During your assessment you will be asked to evidence your potential as a parent in the following areas:

- Caring for children
- Providing a safe and caring environment
- Working as part of a team
- Your own development

Mid and West Wales Adoption Service will work in partnership with you regarding your suitability assessment. We agree to work in an open and honest way, maintaining the confidentiality of the information you share and dealing with you in a respectful and sensitive manner.

The welfare and happiness of the children with whom we work is paramount and although we will work with you to assess your suitability your subsequent approval as an Adopter is not guaranteed.

### **Why do we need to know all this information?**

Adopting a child is so much more than having your own children.

There is an additional “healing” component involved in becoming an adoptive parent as you will have a major role to play in helping the child to come to terms with their experiences and losses.

Even a baby who has never spent time with his or her birth parent needs to deal with the knowledge and hurt that comes from knowing their birth parent chose to give them away or was adjudged not able to be a parent. The impact that this can have upon a child’s self-esteem – often into adulthood – should never be underestimated.

Adopted adults who have sought counselling to find out more about their birth families have commonly stated such views as “it’s not that I don’t love my adopted family to bits, it’s just that I need to know why I was adopted”. Others commonly express concerns that the fact they were not cared for by their birth parents is somehow their fault. They often have anxieties about how their birth families have coped with their adoption.

Adoptive parents need to explore these feelings for themselves and to understand the normality of such views in order to best help their child to grow up knowing who they are. If the adoptive parent “hopes” that their child will not have such feelings, but does not discuss these issues, the chances are that the child will grow up with such feelings, and may express their anger outwardly at a world that does not acknowledge their confusion.



## **The Adoption Panel**

Following the gathering of all the assessment information and evidence, the Adoption Social Worker will provide a written report on which you will be asked to comment and to sign. The report will then be presented to our Adoption panel for consideration for approval of your suitability to adopt.

The Panel meets once or twice a month, and members include social workers, a medical advisor, an adopted person, an adoptive parent, and other representatives.

You will be notified of the date and will be invited to attend with your Social Worker.

Once Panel have read the reports and had an opportunity to meet you, as well as ask any questions, they will make a recommendation as to whether you are 'Suitable to Adopt.' The Agency Decision Maker receives the reports and the Minutes of the Panel Meeting and has 7 days in which to make a decision about the Panel's recommendation. You will be notified of the Panel's recommendation within 24 hours and notified in writing within 14 days of the Agency's decision.

## **What happens if you are not approved?**

In the event of your assessment not being agreed by the Agency Decision Maker you will receive a copy of the reasons and any recommendations of the Adoption Panel. Should you wish to make a representation against the decision, you can either make representation to the Adoption Panel or request that the Independent Review Panel consider your assessment. More information about this is available upon request.

## **Following Approval**

If you are approved as prospective adopters, the Mid and West Wales Adoption Service will seek to find a suitable match for you. If no suitable match is identified for you in Mid and West Wales you will be referred to the Wales Adoption Register, which may result in you being considered as a possible match for a child/ren from other areas of Wales.

## **Support for adoptive parents and adopted children.**

Adoption Support Services are available for adopters and children living within an adoptive family. As an Adoption team we are committed to supporting you through your adoption journey and can provide help in a number of ways.



- Information and advice for anyone in an adoptive family
- Support groups for adopters
- Services for children who may have emotional, behavioural or psychological needs
- On-going life story work and assistance in helping a child to understand their past.

Contact the Adoption Team to find out more. A member of the team will visit to assess your current situation to ascertain where we can best help, or to point you in the right direction.

### **Financial support**

Financial support may be available depending on the needs of your adopted child. Your financial situation will be means tested and is reviewed annually. If your circumstances change it could mean that any financial support may be altered upwards or downwards, but continued payment of allowances depends on the continuing needs of your adopted child.

All adoptive parents of an adopted children aged under18 and all prospective adopters being matched with a child can request an assessment for adoption support.

The following are some of the situations that could qualify you for financial support:

- Your adopted child's needs are extra to those of other children in the community
- To enable siblings to continue to live together
- To ensure contact to continue with birth family members
- To enable your child to continue to live with you

If you think that your child may be eligible for financial support you can contact the Adoption Team who will advise you of the full "adoption allowance" policy and can arrange for an assessment of your financial circumstances if appropriate.



If, having read the information in this pack you decide that you would like to find out more, please return the enclosed Adoption Initial visit request form to

**Adoption Team Manager  
Neuadd Brycheiniog  
Cambrian Way  
Brecon,  
Powys,  
LD3 7HR**

or

**Adoption Team Manager  
Mid and West Wales Adoption Service  
Building 3  
Spilman Street  
Carmarthen  
SA31 1LE**

**0300 30 32 505**

**[adoptionenquiries@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:adoptionenquiries@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)**

