



FAMILY ADOPTION LINKS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

2026-2027

FAMILY
ADOPTION
LINKS

BACKGROUND

It is a requirement of the National Minimum Standards for Adoption Services, that an adoption service produces a statement of purpose, including its aims and objectives and a description of the service and facilities that it provides. This Statement of Purpose is limited to the services provided by Family Adoption Links, a partnership Regional Adoption Agency.

Regional partners within Family Adoption Links provide their own service related Statement of Purpose in accordance with: Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011; Care Planning Regulations 2010; Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 (amended 2011); Local Authority Regulations 2005; Adoption Agencies & Independent Review of Determinations (Amendment) Regulations 2011; Adoption Agencies (Panel & Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012; Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous cases Amendments) Regulations 2013; Care Planning, placement and Case and fostering services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013; Adoption and Children Act 2002; Care Standards Act 2000, the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Education and Adoption Act 2016.

Family Adoption Links was established on 1/11/2020 and brought together partners from Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland. The partnership was augmented by Northamptonshire Children's Trust who joined in on 1/01/2022. Family Adoption Links is a 'partnership model' Regional Adoption Agency. The 5 local authorities and the Northamptonshire Children's Trust continue to be responsible for line management and employment arrangements for their teams. The budget for the central hub staff is pooled and the Agency partners act collaboratively to deliver the stated objectives ensuring that practice is based on consistency and excellence.

The Head of Service reports bi-monthly to a Governance Board, made up of Senior Officers from each local authority partner. The Chair of the Governance Board is Cornelia Andrecut, Director of Children's Social Care, Northamptonshire Children's Trust. The Governance Board is responsible for setting the strategy.



PRINCIPLES & VALUES

The Education and Adoption Act 2016 required Local Authorities to come together to deliver best services at all parts of the adoption journey. FAL was established with the following objectives;

- That Children have the widest range of adopters trained to best meet their needs.
- That matching delivers the best quality outcomes for children.
- That adopters receive a consistent, high quality professional service at all stages within the adoption process.
- That the same high standard of adoption support is available for all families across the region.
- Children are supported to keep in touch with their birth family in order to support their identity and wellbeing and that of the birth family and adoptive family.

The service works positively with all service users and partner agencies regardless of race, colour, religion, language, culture, disability, gender, sexual orientation or age.

Every attempt will be made to secure an adoptive family which meets a child's emotional and developmental needs taking into account their ethnicity, religion, language, culture, gender and disability balanced by the need to avoid undue delay.



FAL established the following Vision for its service delivery:



We're a dynamic regional partnership aimed at delivering excellence in every aspect of adoption. As 6 individual Local Authority adoption teams from Leicester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Rutland and Northamptonshire, we're working collaboratively to offer potential adopters a multitude of benefits. This includes...

- A larger pool of children to ensure the best possible match
- A comprehensive range of support services to ensure a positive adoption journey
- The widest pool of professionals who engage in innovative, evidence based and ground-breaking adoption practices



PRINCIPLES & VALUES

The agency is committed to fulfilling the requirements of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the Children and Families Act 2014 as defined by the Legal Agreement that underpins the partnership. Services for children remain the responsibility of individual partner agencies as do many areas of the service for adults.

Objectives of the agency:

- To provide an adoption service to:
 - Children in need of an adoptive family
 - Prospective and approved adopters
 - Children and adoptive parents who need adoption support services
- To ensure that best practice is shared across the partnership.
- To engage adopters and children to ensure that they shape service development.

KEY SERVICE AIMS

- To deliver a dynamic Recruitment strategy that meets both regional and local requirements
- To ensure that adopters receive appropriate preparation, training, support and advice to enable them to offer the best possible standards of parenting, safety and protection for children or young people in their care.
- To minimise delay in family finding and matching, prioritising the needs of the child at all times
- To provide information on the services available to all those affected by adoption recognising that adoption has lifelong implications.

The delivery of assessments and approvals of adopters, matching and placements and adoption support remain the responsibility of individual partners. Complaints and any disciplinary issues are dealt with by the employee's relevant employing agency.

KEY SERVICE AIMS

The FAL service undertakes the following tasks in conjunction with its partners:

- Delivering an agreed Marketing and Recruitment plan based on the identified needs of children who require or are likely to require adoption.
- Deliver and maintain a website which serves as a first point of contact for those seeking information about adoption and through a secure facility, acts as a means of accessing both preparatory and post approval training.
- Coordinates preparatory training and a range of cross region post approval training
- Operates a regional Family Finding approach ensuring that children who require adoption are actively considered regionally and via Link Maker.
- Delivers an agreed, limited Post Adoption offer incorporating website information, education, training, consultation and support.
- Provides a data analysis service to ensure that regional data is accurately available and reflects actual practice.
- To develop agreed consistent practice in other areas as identified via current workstreams and practice developments.

The aims and objectives of the partnership reflect the delegated areas of practice. This is kept under review via reports to the Governance Board.

The FAL Statement of Purpose will be reviewed annually with the next review set for April 2027.

