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The national adoption information service for England

***Strictly embargoed until Monday 14th October 2019***

**CHILDREN IN ENGLAND AWAITING ADOPTION OUTNUMBER ADOPTERS BY 2 TO 1 LATEST FIGURES SHOW**

The latest analysis published by the government shows that there are almost twice as many children awaiting adoptive families as there are adopters. The figures reveal that there are currently 4,140 children in England with a plan for adoption and 1,700 families approved to adopt.

Gemma Gordon-Johnson, Head of Service for First4Adoption 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 the National Recruitment steering group\* are 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 latest statistics from the Adoption & Special Guardianship Leadership Board (ASGB)\*\*, also reveals that of the children awaiting adoption:

* 28% are aged over 5 years
* 4% have a disability
* 20% are from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background
* 57% are in sibling groups

Gemma Gordon-Johnson 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 First4Adoption today”.

Follow the National Adoption Week campaign in Guardian online and the Daily Mirror. Help raise awareness of adoption by sharing the hashtag #YouCanAdopt on social media. For more information about National Adoption Week or to arrange an interview with a First4Adoption spokesperson or case study contact Gemma Gordon-Johnson, Head of Service at First4Adoption - gemma@first4adoption.org.uk

\* The National Recruitment steering group is made up of representatives from statutory and voluntary adoption agencies together with CVAA, Adoption UK, Coram-BAAF and First4Adoption.  This is a new and exciting approach seeking to reinforce the continuing priority of recruiting a sufficient pool of adopters and promoting the routes that prospective adopters can take in approaching adoption agencies from across the sector. <https://www.first4adoption.org.uk/nationaladoptionweek/naw-steering-group/>

\*\* The Adoption & Special Guardianship Leadership Board (ASGLB) was established in 2014 to provide leadership to the adoption system and drive improvements in performance <https://coram-i.org.uk/asglb/>

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***Notes to Editors***

***National Adoption Week*** *runs from14th - 20th October 2019*  <https://www.first4adoption.org.uk/nationaladoptionweek/>

***First4Adoption*** *is the national information service for adoption in England.* Visit our website [www.first4adoption.org.uk](http://www.first4adoption.org.uk/), follow us on [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/First4Adoption) and [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/First4Adoption)