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

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

New research from national adoption information service, First4Adoption, shows that the South East has more than 2 times as many children awaiting adoptive families as there are adopters. The figures, based on the latest data reveals the region currently has 580 children waiting to be adopted and 250 families approved to adopt.

[name from agency] says, “This report highlights the ongoing 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 latest statistics from the Adoption & Special Guardianship Leadership Board (ASGLB)\*\* also reveals that of the children awaiting adoption:

* 28% are aged over 5 years
* 5% have a disability
* 13% are from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic backgrounds
* 58% are in sibling groups

[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

##### \*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/>

##### *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)