

Cambridgeshire Adoption & Fostering Service

Introduction To National Minimum Standards and Values Statement

- The standards, effective from 30.12.05 are issued under section 23(1) and section 49(1) Care Standards Act 2000. They apply to voluntary adoption agencies in England and Wales and local authorities in England
- Though not enforceable in themselves, they will be used by the registration authorities (OFSTED in England and National Assembly for Wales) when registering and inspecting adoption agencies to determine whether the agencies meet their obligations under the (mandatory) regulations
- Full details regarding standards can be accessed at www.dfes.gov.uk

Values Statement

- Children are entitled to grow up as part of a loving family which can meet their needs during childhood and beyond
- It is best for children where possible to be brought up by their own birth family
- The child's welfare, safety and needs will be at the centre of the adoption process
- The child's wishes and feelings will be actively sought and fully taken into account at all stages
- Delays in adoption can have a severe impact on the health and development of children and should be avoided wherever possible
- Children's ethnic origin, cultural background, religion and language will be fully recognised and positively valued and promoted when decisions are made
- The particular needs of disabled children will be fully recognised and taken into account when decisions are made
- The role of adoptive parents in offering a permanent family to a child who cannot live with their birth family will be valued and respected
- Adoption has lifelong implications for all involved and requires lifelong commitment from many different organisations, professionals and individuals who have to work together to meet the needs for services of those affected by adoption
- Government will work in partnership with local government, other statutory agencies and voluntary adoption agencies to ensure that these standards are delivered