

Contents

Introduction	1
Terminology and remit of this guide	2

1 Research findings on foster carer adoption	4
Earlier findings on foster carer adoption	4
Foster carer adoption in the USA	5
The current situation in England	6
The current situation in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland	8
Messages from research	8
What research tells us about stability of carer adoption placements	14
Key points	15

2 The legislative framework	16
England	16
Wales	21
Northern Ireland	22
Scotland	23
Issues raised in relevant case law	26
Key points	31

3 Preparation, assessment and approval of carer adopters	32
The care planning process	32
Specific issues to be considered in carer adopter applications	36
Preparation of carer adopters	51
The panel	57
Key points	58

4 The matching process	59
Importance of having full information	60
Using evidence from how the carer adopter already meets the child's needs	61
Race and ethnicity	62
Assessing attachment in the context of existing relationships	63

Family and social relationships	64
Paperwork and adoption panel	65
Placement and review	66
Key points	67
<hr/>	
5 Adoption support	68
Accessing adoption support	69
Accessing therapeutic support	70
Financial support	71
Support for adopters	71
Support in education	73
Life story work	74
Support for contact	75
Sibling contact	77
Key points	78
<hr/>	
Conclusion	79
Final thoughts from carer adopters	80
<hr/>	
Appendix 1: Case studies of foster carers who have adopted	82
<hr/>	
Appendix 2: Examples of agency process and policy documents	86
<hr/>	
Appendix 3: Adapted CoramBAAF forms which can be used for carer adoptions	92
Registration of Interest form for foster carers wishing to adopt a child in their care	92
Assessment Agreement (Plan) for a Reg 30F Assessment (foster carer adopting)	100
CoramBAAF guide to completion of Annex A Report referencing the relevant sections of CPR/PAR/APR reports	103
<hr/>	
Appendix 4: Checklist for issues to consider when foster carers are considering adoption	116
<hr/>	
References	118
<hr/>	