

Guidance on Activity Days

1. Introduction

Activity Days are organised events that give approved adopters, or prospective adopters in Stage 2, the opportunity to engage with children who need adoptive parents, in a safe, supported and fun environment.

The Family Finding Social Worker will discuss with the child/ren's Local Authority Social Worker about the appropriateness of such an event. It is the decision of the Local Authority for the child – with shared parental responsibility for the child – whether a child participates in the event based on an assessment of whether the event is in the best interests of the child.

The adopters' Social Workers have responsibility to support the prospective adopters before and after the event recognising that for some adopters this can be an emotional experience.

The Child/ren's Social Worker will have responsibility for supporting the child alongside the foster carer.

2. External Activity Days

A number of Adoption Agencies host Activity Days. Where it is considered by the Adopt North East Family Finding Team that a child would benefit from attendance, consent and funding will be requested from the responsible Local Authority.

Where possible, the child's Local Authority Social Worker and the child's Foster Carer will attend the event alongside the child/ren (with costs being met for travel and accommodation by the Local Authority). The child/ren will be prepared by their Social Worker and their Foster Carer so that they have an understanding of the purpose of the day. The Family Finding Social Worker will offer advice and guidance to assist the preparation.

Adopt North East Activity Days

Adopt North East will host two Activity Days per year. Both internal and external approved and prospective adopters in Stage 2 will be invited to attend. There will be no cost to the Local Authority.

The Family Finding Team will take responsibility for making all of the necessary arrangements for the day including invites, activities, entertainment, refreshments, support and feedback forms. They will liaise with the child's Local Authority Social Workers and offer advice around preparing the child/ren for the event.

Following the event, the Family Finding Social Workers will consider all Expressions of Interest from adopters and make contact with the adopters' Social Workers to begin the formal process of linking and considering a possible match.