



# The Centre for Adoption Support

Annual Report 2017

The Centre for  
Adoption Support

We know every child is different, there  
is no 'one size' of support that fits all

[www.centreforadoptionssupport.org](http://www.centreforadoptionssupport.org)





**The Centre for Adoption Support is a unique northwest based service providing support and training to adoptive families and more recently, permanence carers through kinship and special guardianship.**

The Centre was established in 2015 as a partnership between Adoption Matters and Caritas Care. Both agencies are Ofsted 'outstanding' rated Voluntary Adoption Agencies. Caritas Care, as a fostering provider, is rated Good with 'outstanding' outcomes for children; we work together to ensure that our partnership activities encompass the very best practice from both organisations.

The Centre provides access to an evidence based 'graduated' support model where families are able to access a wide range of services, training and support programmes appropriate to their level of need. At the heart of this service is our highly experienced and professional staff team who provide child-centred assessments and develop a support package tailored to the specific needs of the family. The graduated model is based on the premise that every family situation is different: there is no 'one size' of support that fits all. By understanding the child's needs within the family context, we are able to direct families to the best support options for them and monitor their progress along their journey.

**What we offer**

We know that learning is an ongoing process for all parents and especially for adoptive parents. We offer a wide variety of training and support workshops on issues that affect their lives and changing needs. The programme is ever changing and we welcome all suggestions on future training. Below gives a snapshot of some of the training we offer:

- **Child to Parent Violence Workshop** For families who manage physical and verbal aggression at home.
- **Therapeutic consultations** facilitated by the therapeutic social work practitioners across the region which can be accessed by both professionals and families.
- **You and Your Support Network Workshop** Support for extended family and friends to help them understand the new family situation and the factors that lie behind a child's behaviour
- **Life Story Work & Talking About Adoption Workshop**
- **Parenting Teenagers Workshop**
- **Therapeutic Parenting** An interactive day where staff will share elements of Theraplay, Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy and the Nurtured Heart Approach which can be taken away and tried at home.

Most of our services fall within the remit of the Adoption Support Fund (ASF) meaning that local authorities can apply for Government funding to cover the costs of this support and we can assist with applications.





## Our third year

We are delighted to have worked with more local authorities this year receiving **159 referrals**.

We have welcomed **714 attendees** to our workshops, held **129 consultations** and worked with **304 families**.

We have plans to further expand our training programme with new titles such as; Strengthening Families Through Play, Resilience and Care, Social Communication and a Theraplay Parenting Group. To enhance our LGBT+ groups we will be holding a Family Fun Day. We also have plans to further expand our staff base and management team.

## Delyth scoops top award

We were also delighted that Delyth Evans, the Centre's Service Manager, was awarded Adoption Support Practitioner of the Year at the First4Adoption National Adoption Week Awards held in London in October 2016.

Delyth has worked within children's services for over 30 years and for the last 10 years, within the field of Adoption Support. Delyth has lead the Centre for Adoption Support since its inception in 2015.

*Pictured right Delyth with Award Presenter TV personality Clare Grogan and Edward Timpson who was then the Minister of State for Children and Families.*

## We helped swimming school get attachment friendly

We teamed up with national swimming school Puddle Ducks to help train all their teachers with regards to the importance of attachment for children who have been in care. Puddle Ducks currently teach over 18,000 babies, toddlers, pre-school and primary school children across the UK every week and wanted to ensure their teachers are trained to care for children from all backgrounds.

Puddle Ducks' Technical Director Ali Beckman (*pictured right with Delyth Evans*) commented:

***"We worked closely with the Centre's specialist adoption staff to develop a training module for our staff on the importance of attachment for children who have been in care. This will apply to children who are now in adoptive or fostering placements. The module is now a mandatory part of teacher training and we are proud that all 300 of our swimming teachers have now completed the module".***

1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017

Families Worked with :	304
Referrals from Local Authority:	159
No of consultations:	129
No of workshops:	44
Workshop Attendees:	714





## What people say about us:

### Professionals:

“Working with Centre for Adoption Support has definitely been worthwhile. I have had many families who have benefited from their work. The CFAS staff are very experienced in adoption and have a wealth of knowledge. Feedback from the families has been especially positive, they valued the practical strategies provided by the ‘nurtured heart approach’ and this has been complemented by theoretical understanding of why adopted children have different needs. There has been especially positive feedback when both school and parents attended the same training together. I would certainly recommend CfAS. There is a regular varied calendar events with something catering for a wide variety of families needs”.

**Libby Hardman, Adoption Support Social Worker - Cheshire West & Chester Council**

“CFAS provide a wide range of evidence based specialist services and we have confidence in the knowledge skills and experience of their staff to deliver an outstanding service to our adopters. We have received excellent feedback from our families who have benefitted from the support offered”.

“The support and relationship we have with CFAS has allowed us to make maximum use of the ASF in creative and innovative ways. The partnership we have established with them now means they are a very important and trusted part of our offer to families”.

**Andy Bibby, Consultant Social Worker - Liverpool City Council**

### Families:

“The biggest change though has been the Centre giving a presentation in school. Suddenly there is more understanding of attachment difficulties and more awareness of adopted children's background hence certain behaviours”.

#### **A parent following training delivered to their child's school**

“After some friendly introductions and some vocal warm ups, we are transformed into popstars within the hour. You can physically see kids grow in confidence and self esteem and parents let go and throw themselves into it. I had forgotten the value of singing and its benefits. More importantly, I had forgotten just how supportive it feels to be with people who accept you and your child for who they are and have so much invested in your happiness and well being. It's like having your own cheer leading team, who are just thrilled that you are there. Thank you CFAS. Another great support group within a really fun activity”.

#### **A parent who attended the choir with their child.**

### Children:

(Activity Day Rock & River / Den Building) “The day was great, I really liked lighting the fire with the sparking stone!”

“I loved it, especially the fire building. My suggestions for next time - I'd like to do family tig and hide and seek!”

“The choir is really good, I wasn't sure at first but it was really good fun”.





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