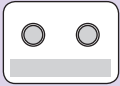


یہ دستاویز کے بارے میں معلومات فراہم کرتا ہے۔ ایڈٹ یعنی بالغ افراد کے لئے کیئر سروس
اس دستاویز کو اپنی زبان میں سمجھنے کے واسطے اگر آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس کو کونسل آفس
لے جائیں اور ریسپشن پر پوچھیں۔ کونسل کے دفاتر کے پتے نیچے درج ہیں۔

這文件內容是有關 成人護理服務。
如你需要，我們可以用你的語言幫助你了解此文件的
內容。請携同此文件到議局辦公室接待處查詢。辦公室
地址如下：

Niniejszy document udziela informacji na temat Opieki
Społecznej dla Dorosłych.
Jeśli chcieliby Państwo skorzystać z pomocy w zrozumieniu
tego dokumentu w swoim języku, proszę go ze sobą
zabrać do Biura Rady Miejskiej (Council Office) i zapytać
w recepcji. Mogą Państwo znaleźć Biura Rady Miejskiej
pod poniższymi adresami:

Social Services,
Kilncraigs,
Greenside Street, Alloa
FK10 1EB.



This leaflet can also be made available on audio tape.
Contact the Research & Information Service on
01259 452519.

Further information can be obtained on the Clackmannanshire Council
website: www.clacks.org.uk.

Contact the Research & Information Service on 01259 452519 to obtain
further supplies of this leaflet or to request changes / amendments



Adoption In Clackmannanshire



Clackmannanshire
Council

www.clacksweb.org.uk

All You Need
To Know

Introduction

The Clackmannanshire Council Adoption Service has a responsibility to meet the needs of children who, for a variety of reasons, cannot live with their own families. Social Work's first aim is to return children to the care of their own parents or extended family, if at all possible. For a small number of children this is not possible and the decision is made to seek an adoptive or permanent fostering family for them.

Declaration

Applicants will be asked if a child has ever been removed from their care or if they have ever been refused registration as a childminder.



Contact Details

Kilncraigs,
Greenside Street,
Alloa. FK10 1EB.

Tel: 01259 225000
Fax: 01259 225004

Emergency Duty Team

Emergency contact details to obtain Social Services outwith office hours and on public holidays

Tel: 01786 470500

Comments and Complaints

Social Services has a Complaints Officer to ensure all complaints are dealt with thoroughly, fairly and within a reasonable timescale.

Complaints Officer/Complaints Monitoring Officer

Social Services,
Kilncraigs,
Greenside Street, Alloa. FK10 1EB.

Tel: 01259 452367 / 452373

Core Values of the Council

Commitment, Trust and Partnership

Openness and Accountability

Respect and Dignity

Equity, Fairness and Inclusion

Medical

Applicants will be asked to undergo a full medical assessment conducted by their own G.P.

It is recognised that adoption can be a strenuous activity and serious health problems or disability may affect a person's ability to care. Any health problems or disability will be considered sympathetically by the agency's Medical Adviser along with the assessing social worker. There may be restrictions on the registration because of health concerns.

Local Authority

A check of our local authority records will be carried out, and if an applicant has lived in another authority's area, full checks will also be made with that local authority.

Health Visitor

An applicant's local health visitor is contacted to see if s/he has any opinion on the applicant's ability to care for a child.

Smoking

The risks to young children of living in a smoking environment are well documented. Normally, we would not place children under the age of five years where a member of the family smokes. Similarly, if a child had identified risks of heart or lung disease we would not place them in a smoking household.

References

Each applicant will be required to provide a list of possible referees including an employer's reference. Referees will also be interviewed.

The Assessment process

The assessment process is a two-way process in which we aim to give you information to prepare you for the complex role as an adopter, and to help you decide if adopting is for you.

Within the assessment process, the Council will look for you to have the potential to develop the following skills:-

- ◆ Knowing the difference between adoption and natural parenthood.
- ◆ Understanding the backgrounds of some children awaiting adoption.
- ◆ Understanding the behavioural difficulties that a child can display.
- ◆ Deciding how they would cope with the child sharing information from their birth parent/family.
- ◆ Deciding what kind of child would fit into your family.

In order to achieve this a qualified social worker will be identified to carry out an assessment and provide a comprehensive report to be presented to Clackmannanshire Council Resource Panel. You will be fully involved by being able to contribute to the report and the content of the report will be fully shared with you apart from third party information.



You will be invited to the Resource Panel along with your social worker, where your application will be considered. The Resource Panel will make a recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker. The Agency Decision Maker has to reach a decision within 14 days and advise you of this decision, in writing, 7 days thereafter. The Agency Decision Maker will also state the terms of your approval as a foster carer.

If it is decided that your application should be refused, the reasons for refusal will be explained to you. Clackmannanshire Council have a reconsideration process if an applicant wishes to seek a review of the decision.

Financial support

In some circumstances financial assistance may be available to adopters, particularly those applying to adopt older children. In some circumstances approved adoption allowances may be payable and there may be assistance with the payment of legal fees.

Recruitment

The Council normally undertakes recruitment campaigns twice a year by advertising and offering the opportunity to enquirers to discuss their interests with a social worker. There is no obligation assumed. Any enquiries received at other times will be responded to with information and usually a “one-off” visit by a social worker. We ask that those with an interest then wait until the next recruitment programme is underway, so that they can be part of the group preparation courses that are run. Normally we require that applicants attend preparation courses, which usually comprise whole day sessions and/or evening meetings.

Criteria

By law, there are a number of checks, which the Council is obliged to carry out on people applying to become foster carers. Such checks will be carried out on every adult within the household. Written consent is needed and assessment will not proceed without these checks being undertaken. These are as follows:

Disclosure Scotland Check

Enquirers with any previous criminal convictions must disclose these. Individuals with convictions for offences involving children or serious violence are not deemed to be suitable as adoptive parents. However it is recognised that some enquirers will have criminal convictions, which may not necessarily prevent them from making an application.

Age

All applicants must be over 21 years old.

Status

Couples must either be married, are civil partners or have lived together for three years before their application will be accepted.

Single applicants will also be considered.

Infertility

If applicants are infertile, medical advice should have been sought and both applicant/s should have undergone basic infertility investigations.

Applications will not be accepted from enquirers currently undergoing any form of fertility treatment or from those on the waiting list for treatment.

Residence

Enquirers will be considered from outwith Clackmannanshire provided the resource offered is compatible with the needs of children awaiting adoption placement.

Resource

Applications will only be accepted from enquirers who are willing to consider children from a range of backgrounds, which include mental illness, parents with learning difficulties, and parental abuse of alcohol and drugs. The majority of children placed for adoption have suffered emotional damage.

Clackmannanshire Council's commitment

We aim to provide a service that works in partnership with prospective adopters. We undertake to:

- ◆ Respond to enquiries within a week in an efficient and courteous manner.
- ◆ Provide initial information by way of written material and telephone or direct contact with a social worker.
- ◆ Provide a comprehensive preparation and assessment programme, which will normally involve group preparation sessions and an assessment undertaken by a qualified and experienced social worker.
- ◆ Inform unsuccessful applicants as to reasons for not accepting their applications.
- ◆ Complete assessments within six months from point of allocation to a social worker to presentation to Clackmannanshire Council Resource Panel.
- ◆ Inform applicants of their right to seek a review of any decision made by the Resource Panel.

For further information please contact:-

Child Care Services

Kilncraigs,
Greenside Street,
Alloa. FK10 1EB.

Tel. No. (01259) 225000 and ask to speak to a social worker about adopting.

The Clackmannanshire Adoption Service is registered and inspected by the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland. Contact can be made on 0845 600 9527. The Council also have an independent complaints officer who can be contacted at Kilncraigs on (01259) 450000.

Who are the children who need to be adopted?

- ◆ Very few babies are available for adoption nowadays and the Council's priority must be to meet the needs of the children in our care.

We will only accept applications from people who wish to adopt children aged 0 - 5 years, or older children 5 years and over.

- ◆ Most of the children needing adoption are older and have suffered difficult life experiences, such as separation from their families, neglect or abuse. Such experiences can have life-long effects for a child.
- ◆ Clackmannanshire Council needs adopters who can offer a life-long commitment to a child.
- ◆ Children with varying degrees of emotional disturbance and difficult behaviour.
- ◆ Groups of brothers and sisters together.
- ◆ Babies and children with disabilities.
- ◆ Children with chronic medical problems.
- ◆ Children who need to retain some contact with birth family members.

Adoption transfers all legal rights and responsibilities to the adoptive parents. Clackmannanshire Council has a duty to ensure that a range of support services for the adoptive child and their family even after an adoptive order has been granted.

What is permanent fostering?

Permanent fostering is a way of ensuring that a child can grow up in a stable and secure environment with a permanent family but where the legal responsibility remains with the Council. Some circumstances where a decision would be taken to seek a permanent foster family would be:-

- ◆ Older children who cannot return to their own families but have such strong links that they do not wish to be adopted.
- ◆ Children whose needs are so complex and demanding that the responsibility of care needs to be a shared one.

Who Can apply to adopt?

Clackmannanshire Council welcomes interest from all parts of the community including members of minority groups.

The Adoption & Children (Scotland) Act 2007 requires that all adopters must be over the age of 21.

Enquirers who wish to be considered as applicant(s) / adoptive carers for Clackmannanshire Council Social Services must meet the following criteria, before they can be accepted for assessment.