**Frequently asked questions re standard adoption.**

**I already have a DBS, can this be used?**

If you have registered for the DBS update service then we can accept this. The social worker should view this at the initial visit and record the findings.

Please ask people to join the update service when they receive their DBS certificates as this will make it easier for court applications as they move forward.

**Does an adopted child need their own bedroom?**

Yes. In some circumstances adopted siblings can share a bedroom.

**What about smoking and vaping?**

Smoking and vaping are currently regarded in the same way. You need to be smoke/vape free for one year at the point of approval. We would ask you to visit your GP or cessation clinic for this to be recorded and nicotine levels noted. Therefore, to start the process you need to have been smoke/vape free for 6 month and able to provide evidence.

**How long do I have to wait before I can adopt again?**

You can apply two years after the date the child first came to live with you.

**What age gap should there be between children?**

Two years though there may be exceptions to this such as a sibling having a plan of adoption.

**How long do a couple have to be in a relationship to be able to adopt?**

Two years; they should have been living together for at least 12 months.

**How much leave do I have to take?**

As long as possible and, in most situations, 6 months minimum. There could be circumstances where we are more flexible, for example a single person or in the situation of foster carers.

**I have an SGO, can I adopt the child now?**

Yes, if a Special Guardian is seeking to adopt, they would need to go through the private application route through the Court. The Child must have lived with them for 3 years out of the previous 5 (or leave of the Court is obtained) and they must give notice (under s.44) in writing to the relevant local authority not more than two years, and not less than three months, before the date on which the application for the adoption order is made.