



# Concurrent Planning Service

## For Babies 0-3 Years

Adoption and Fostering working together to give children the best start in life.

A guide for prospective carers



## What is Concurrent Planning?

Concurrent Planning is a specialist fostering and adoption service placing babies 0-3 years at its centre. It is an innovative approach linking both fostering and adoption together to ensure every child placed is given stability and love from the onset.

Concurrent Planning is for babies and young children aged 0-3 in care who are likely to need adoption, but who still have a chance of being reunited with their birth family. Concurrent carers initially perform the role of foster carer while the courts decide whether or not a child can return to its birth family.

During this time the child will need to see their parents regularly and the concurrent carers will need to support the birth family's efforts to regain the care for their child.

If the courts decide that the birth family have shown they can be reliable, able and loving parents, the baby will be returned to their care. The concurrent carers will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have given the child the best possible start in life by providing care and security from the earliest time, and will play a part in helping them settle back into their family.

However, if the courts decide that the child's parents cannot provide the security and care they need, and there are no alternative carers from within the birth family, the child will remain with their concurrent carer/s and be adopted by them.

## Why choose Concurrent Planning?

When a child is first taken into the care of the local authority, they are placed with 'concurrent carers' who look after the child as foster carers and take the child for frequent contact with their birth parents or relatives at an agreed neutral venue.

The child's local authority works with the birth parents whilst the case is being considered by the court (usually within 6 months) and the court then decides if the child should return to their birth family or be adopted by the existing carers.

## What are the benefits for carers?

Carers who go on to adopt get to know and love their children from a very young age, often from birth, and help them through the time in their life when they are most vulnerable; this is something that may not always be possible with traditional adoption.

You will get to know the parents of the child from regular contact sessions, which can form the basis for meaningful contact in the future and be an important source of information for the child in later life.

## What kind of carers are we looking for?

We welcome carers irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation, religion and disability. We encourage adopters from many different backgrounds to suit the diverse needs of children in care. As a concurrent carer you need to be:

- One carer needs to be at home full time during the fostering phase, usually approx 6 months.
- Able to support the return of a child to their birth family.
- Loving, emotionally resourceful and at all times able to put the needs of very young children first.
- Able to respect and work with birth families and prepared to support contact between children and their birth families.
- Prepared to deal with uncertainty.
- Have their own strong support networks through family and friends.

## What support is available for carers?

- **Specialist preparation, training and assessment** are provided to all prospective carers.
- **Intensive and high quality support** from a Concurrent Planning Social Worker.
- **Financial support** - During the fostering phase, concurrent carers will receive a fostering allowance. One carer is required to look after the child on a full-time basis during the fostering phase.



## Did you know?

Our Concurrent Planning service is the largest in the Country and is an exciting, creative opportunity to offer a service which minimises disruption and unnecessary moves for very young children.

## About us

Independent Adoption Agencies Caritas Care and Adoption Matters work in partnership to deliver the Concurrent Planning service. Both organisations are proudly rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and are registered adoption agencies. Together they have a track record of delivering high quality permanency services to local authorities across the North West of England.

Caritas Care is also a registered Independent Fostering Agency.

We are a team who are passionate about concurrent planning and the outcomes that it achieves for the child, carers and birth parents. Our social workers all have a background in children and families social work, fostering and adoption.

## Want to find out more?

We hold regular information sessions for prospective carers to find out more and talk to other concurrent carers and adopters.

To book a place or for any questions, please contact us:  
0300 123 1050 or email  
[info@concurrentplanning.org](mailto:info@concurrentplanning.org)

**Concurrent Planning Service**  
Innovation Forum,  
51 Frederick Road,  
Salford, M6 6FP

**Freephone: 0300 123 1050**  
[info@concurrentplanning.org](mailto:info@concurrentplanning.org)  
[www.concurrentplanning.org](http://www.concurrentplanning.org)