

*Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies*

**Press release**

**For National Adoption Week**

**October 2010**

**ADOPTION....614 good news stories!**

In 2009-10, 614 children joined adoptive families who had been recruited, prepared and supported by voluntary adoption agencies in the UK. This National Adoption Week, when minds turn to the successes and the challenges in adoption, the Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies (CVAA) are hoping to inspire even more parents to build or extend their family through adoption.

Voluntary adoption agencies work across the UK and place all kinds of children into all sorts of families: pre-school and school age children, single children, brothers and sisters, disabled children, and black and ethnic minority children who can best have their needs met by parents from similar backgrounds. The children are placed with childless couples, families with birth children, and single adopters.

Over the past five years, voluntary adoption agencies have had a success rate in adoption of more than 94%. In 2009-10, just 4.8% of the placements of children who had joined adoptive families broke down within 12 months, compared with a national rate of 10% for children placed under the age of 10, and 20%-40% for those placed when over 10.

One of the strengths of voluntary adoption agencies is the quality of support they are able to offer adopters, who give their appreciation for '*friendly and professional approach*', '*always being there for us*', and '*responding quickly and efficiently*'.

Chris Smith, director of CVAA, says: 'Voluntary adoption agencies make a unique contribution to adoption and the statistics speak for themselves – we

have changed the lives of 614 children in the last year, that's 614 children who have loving, permanent families. Voluntary Adoption Agencies work tirelessly to ensure families receive the support they need to flourish and thrive.'

### **Additional Information**

1. The Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies (CVAA) is a membership organisation of 32 voluntary adoption agencies in the UK
2. All voluntary adoption agencies are registered with Ofsted and over 25% of have been rated Outstanding by Ofsted or the Scottish equivalent
3. In 2009-10, voluntary adoption agencies approved 489 families for adoption
4. 149 of the 614 children placed by voluntary adoption agencies in 2009-10 were from sibling groups
5. There were 2,300 children placed for adoption in England in 2009-10 (DFE)