



APSE Annual Report 2025/26

- Timely Adoption Care Planning
- Diverse Adopter Recruitment
- Stronger Support
- A Growing Community

Annual Report



2025/26

By
your
side

Timely Progress of Children's Adoption Plans

Activity across the year shows a steady flow from decision-making through to placement and Adoption Order.



Time to permanence



Medway remained faster than national averages • 5 children placed through Early Permanence, up from 2 children last year

Diversity of Approved Adopters

Approved adopter households in 2025/26



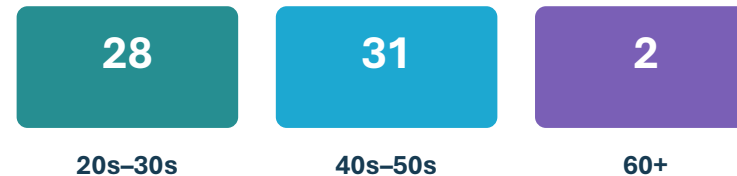
Ethnicity



Sexual orientation



Age profile



A broader adopter profile increases choice and supports matching that reflects children's needs and identity.

Support That Stays Alongside Families

29

Advice Line contacts

10

Short Interventions

22

Initial Assessments

41

Review Assessments

Medway figures shown for 2025/26

Adoption Support: Key Messages

Earlier support, when families need it

APSE continued to develop a more responsive adoption support offer, helping families access advice, therapeutic support and intervention earlier to prevent difficulties escalating.

A clear pathway to the right support

During 2025/26, parents of 271 children accessed the Support and Advice Line, with support tailored to need through advice and guidance, short interventions or full assessments.

Strengthening therapeutic support

The Adoption Support Pilot enabled APSE to test new approaches, including therapeutic workshops, targeted advice and opportunities for families to connect with others who understand adoption.

Keeping families connected

A new programme of Catch-up Calls provided regular contact points for adoptive families, supporting 31 children and ensuring support remained accessible as needs changed over time.

Working alongside families for the long term

APSE's approach combines therapeutic practice, peer support and strong partnerships to provide ongoing support before and after an Adoption Order.

Early advice, proportionate intervention and therapeutic support help families access the right response at the right time.

Connection, Belonging and Lived Experience

APSE's community offer brings families and young people together and creates routes for lived experience to shape services.



Community groups across the region



Nearly 300

families supported through Peer Connection

32

volunteer Peer Connectors

116

children attended 12 activity days

11

young people regularly attend the Adoptables Council

Community groups, participation events and adopter-led support help families feel understood, while giving children, adopters and birth families meaningful ways to influence the service.

Building on progress in 2026/27

01

Increase adopter sufficiency

Recruit more diverse and resilient families for siblings, older children and children with complex needs.



02

Develop Year Two of the support pilot

Extend early help and needs-led support, underpinned by strong multidisciplinary working.



03

Grow community and connection

Expand adopter-led groups, explore post-order peer support and develop catch-up calls.



Any questions?