

Children waiting to be adopted outnumber adopters by nearly 3 to 1

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In Cumbria 23 children are waiting for loving adoptive parents right now as Cumbria County Council launches its latest campaign to coincide with National Adoption Week.

Nationally the need for adoptive families is greater than ever and as more children come into the care system and wait for an adoptive family, the number of available adoptive families is falling. Cumbria is no different and the number of children in need of a forever family is outnumbering those offering to provide one. Figures provided by Adoption Match show that in the North West, children waiting to be adopted outnumber adopters by nearly 3 to 1.

Councillor Anne Burn, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, said:

Children who need adopters come from a variety of different backgrounds and some may be in sibling groups or have disabilities or other special needs. What the children all have in common is that they have had unsettled and sometimes traumatic experiences and need the love and care that adoptive parents can bring to their young lives.

Contrary to many of the myths which surround adoption, the council will consider adopters regardless of age, marital status, gender, sexuality, disability or employment status and in most cases the process takes 6-12 months.

Richard Lowrey-Heywood, recently adopted with Cumbria County Council and said:

Throughout October, the county council will be holding the following events:

Kendal

- Thursday 18 October at 6pm - Castle Green Hotel, Castle Green Lane, Kendal, LA9 6RG - Event to be held in the Garden Room.

Workington

- Thursday 25 October at 6pm - Washington Central Hotel, Washington Street, Workington, CA14 3AY - Event to be held in the Anvil Room.

Carlisle

- Wednesday 31 October at 6pm - Crown and Mitre Hotel, 4 English Street, Carlisle, CA3 8HZ (car park CA3 8HB) - Event to be held in the Drawing Room.

For more information visit:

www.cumbria.gov.uk/adoption

Facebook - www.facebook.com/cumbriafosteringandadoption

Twitter - www.twitter.com/fosteradoptccc