

Audio transcript: Will and his same sex partner adopt a son

Hi, my name's Will and I'm from Loughborough and I am here to talk about adoption for gay and lesbian people. My partner and I adopted our son two years ago now. For gay and lesbian people, it's just being aware that you can adopt and foster and it's something that I mean for myself, I hadn't really considered it greatly until I was in a stable long term relationship but you know I just, I just felt that I was ready to share my, my life and our life with, with a child and having a child to making a family.

So, I just think it's that awareness needs to be out there that gay and lesbian people can adopt and foster and we've had nothing but sort of support from Coram, who the agency we went through and our local community and friends and family have just really supported us throughout the whole process. I suppose that there is probably; people do probably have that stigma. I think probably people sort of might worry about what other people might think or say and you know, I think, when we went through the process, one of the key things that our agency, that Coram gave us was about 'are you good enough to be a parent' 'and I think many people go through adoption and think 'oh I have to be the perfect, the perfect couple, the perfect person to adopt' and actually in the end are you good enough to be a parent? Can you offer a child a home and if you can it's you know there is a child out there that would love a home so I think it's making that more people more aware of that you know that people can go ahead and adopt and foster.

For our situation, our family we haven't looked back since adopting and I just couldn't imagine sort of my life without my son, now and I think for anybody sort of even considering it, is just to go and find out, find some information about it.

With Coram, that we went through, they were just- I mean it was very much what do you want to know and giving it. They gave us all the information we needed and we sort of asked, we asked a 101 questions and none of those

questions were silly questions. It was just so, they were really laid out sort of our fears about going down the adoption route and throughout the whole process, I mean it's what we wanted was something that was very open and transparent and that something that we certainly got back, that you know, if there were any issues and we just wanted to know about them throughout from start to finish. It was a very positive sort of process, that we went through but it again as I said, it can be quite daunting but if you sort of approach it with a positive mind and sort of expect that sort of that honesty and transparency from the agency and from the organisation that you're working with and hopefully at the end it will just be a very positive sort of outcome for your family.

What I just think it's, it's just becoming sort of hopefully become the norm and it won't be looked at, it's about I mean for adoption and fostering it's about finding the right family for all those children that are out there that don't have a family and having a family that's gonna be loving and secure for them and I just think hopefully in 10-15 years' time, it's that process and sort of all those children being in those families, it just looked upon at no differently to anybody else having a family.

From, again, from our experience, within our sort of local community, I mean and the school where our son goes to it's it's it's, normal, it's it's that's how it is, we happen to be two men with a son but it's not, we are not looked upon differently for doing that and our son is our priority and and that's what I would like to see happening for other children across the country. I know a lot of people, when they adopt sort of they think about having a baby and things like that and we adopted an older child, I mean or I think we have experienced so many firsts with him that those sort of not being there for those first few years of his life hasn't taken away from our experience as a family with him so I think people worry about sort of if you've got an older child and if you're adopting an older child that all those issues that have happened all those emotional, behavioural, sort of sort of educational sort of issues that come along with having an older child who's had other experiences but actually from our point of view we've just been able to support our son and give him all those experiences he's never had and really sort of give him a good, a good foundation for the rest of his life really.