

## ADCS response to announcement on overhauling adoption process.

22nd December 2011

Responding to the government's announcement that the process for approving potential adopters will be streamlined, **Matt Dunkley, President of ADCS** said:

*"Local authorities and social workers are at the heart of the system for finding permanent homes for some of the most vulnerable children and recognise that adoption offers the best chance of stability for a lot of children. The current process is cumbersome and does not leave room for social workers to use their professional judgment to make decisions in the best interests of children. We are delighted that the government are forming a group to examine the streamlining of this process so that potential adopters are asked relevant questions to ensure sufficient rigor, but are not bombarded with questions that do little to help identify the best match between children and adoptive parents."*

*"If we are to focus on improving the process nationally, there should be clear and relevant information about how well individual local authorities are doing at finding permanent placements for looked after children and in ensuring the well-being of those who remain in care. The current set of information published by central government is flawed in this respect and we hope that the newly formed group will agree a more relevant set of indicators to help drive improvement across the country."*

### Notes to Editors

- 1) The Association of Directors of Children's Services is the professional leadership organisation for Directors of Children's Services (DCSs) and their senior management teams in local authorities.
- 2) ADCS is one of the members of the newly formed Adoption Assessment Working Group, which also includes the British Association of Adoption and Fostering, Coram, Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies, Adoption UK and Martin Narey, the Ministerial Advisor on adoption.