

**CPHVA RESPONSE TO
ADOPTED ADULTS AND THEIR BIRTH SIBLINGS
DRAFT NATIONAL ADOPTION STANDARDS FOR
ENGLAND AND PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

ISSUED FOR CONSULTATION

The Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association is an autonomous section of the MSF Trade Union with 18,000 members. It is the third largest professional nursing union and is the only union which has public health at its heart. We welcome the opportunity give feedback on this document and would comment as follows:-

STANDARDS

Do you agree that Standards for adopted adults and their birth siblings should be included in the National Adoption Standards?

Yes

These standards should be a minimum but higher standards should be encouraged if possible.

Do the Standards make it clear to everybody involved in adoption what they can expect from services for adopted adults and their birth siblings?

No

The parents of adopted children are not specifically included in these Standards and it is important that they know what they can expect from services for adopted adults and their birth siblings.

Are there any significant issues that are not covered by a Standard?

Yes

Ongoing support to the families where there are adopted children to cover the time from when a request for personal identity is made and throughout that process.

Will the Standards be suitable for inclusion in the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) minimum standards both immediately and in the future?

Yes

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Is the Practice Guidance helpful and easy for practitioners to understand?

Yes

This Practice Guidance is helpful but does not address the problem the parents, both adoptive and birth may have with acceptance of the search for personal identity.

Please suggest how it could be improved.

Is the tone appropriate for the professional audience we wish to address?

Yes

Please suggest how it could be improved.

Is there enough detail in the Practice Guidance to explain the Standards?

Yes

Any more detail would lead to confusion.

Please suggest how it could be improved.

Is any further Practice Guidance needed to address the issue of providing counselling for adoptive adults?

Yes

Both birth and adoptive families need access to support and counselling, therefore guidance/standards in this area would be useful. There needs to be some recognition that this counselling requires skill, maturity and sensitivity. There should be practitioners identified as able to do this work.

Individual Standards

Your comments on the text of the Standards would be very helpful. It would help with the analysis if you could use a separate copy of this sheet for each of the Standards you are commenting on.

Standard number : 5

Support/Conditional Support/Reject

Proposed Amendment/Alternative

There is concern regarding the three month deadline on material/information being made available within this time frame. It may be that more preparation time is needed to make this information presentable to the adoptee.

Is this Standard suitable for inclusion in the NCSC minimum standards?

Immediately: Yes

In the future: Yes

General comments

Overall, the Standards seem reasonable, fair and achievable. However, the CPHVA has concerns about the adoptive parent's exclusion. It needs to be acknowledged that they deserve consideration and must be part of this process.