

## Adoption Focus Group 11 December 2014

	Issue	Action	Outcome
1	Concern about “assessment cheating”. New adopters are only coming into the system to complete assessment and training once they have ‘registered’ as adopters in the induction process.		
2	Two adopters ( one with Southwark ) were concerned that they had had at least three social workers (one of which was a social work manager) . Both felt they would have benefited from more continuity.		
3	One adopter had been in the process since April and has not been matched		
3	Matching issues on the lines of race. One applicant said that she had been turned away from Southwark 4 years ago because she was the “wrong colour”, and that even now she has been ruled out of adopting a mixed race child , in a neighbouring borough, because she and her children are all white.		
4	Adopters from Southwark say that there are not many mixed families in the borough and that families tended to be matched in keeping with the family’s ethnicity.		

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5	One adopter proposed networks to support 'black, white and mixed adoptions'.		
6	The Life Story Books were criticised for taking too long to compile. One adopter reported that her child's book took over a year to put together and when it arrived it had "inappropriate language". It also had the details of the birth Mum's last name.		
7	Post adoption support was seen by those who have successfully adopted as very good.		
8	<p>Training on adoption was seen as very good when delivered by people who had experience of adoption. Examples of training delivered by a woman that had her child adopted out were given.</p> <p>One family thought that the training given by social workers was important "valuable stuff" but the delivery was dry and hard to follow.</p>		

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9	One adopter explained how her experience of her child's schooling exposed a need for teacher training on the needs of adopted children. She said that all schools should have a better understanding of the issues that can confront children who have been adopted. Other adopters agreed with this.		
10	Finding out what motivated people to adopt led to a discussion on what de-motivated potential adopters. It was felt that the scenarios used throughout the assessment and training process were designed to put people off adopting. There was a recognition that people needed to be prepared for dealing with difficulties but one participant felt there needed to "be more balance", and a number of people recommended more stories from adopters; which are frank on the challenges & difficulties but also could inspire with the joys & rewards of adopting.		