

Gloucestershire County Council

Adopters and Foster carers policy on health and lifestyle

Gloucestershire County Council as an Adoption and fostering Agency aim to recruit adopters and foster carers according to the needs of children who are waiting for placements.

A prospective adopter or foster carer's health and lifestyle may impact on their ability to meet the physical, emotional and psychological needs of a child placed with them and for this reason Gloucestershire County Council considers the following when accepting potential applications from carers:

As Children in Care and or placed for adoption are more likely to have experienced neglect, loss, trauma and adversity, it is important to minimise further trauma for the child by reducing the risk of carers becoming seriously ill or dying during childhood or early adulthood.

As adopters and foster carers will have a significant influence in a child's life, it is important that they offer positive role modelling through healthy eating and living an active lifestyle.

In view of this, Gloucestershire have to consider such factors as BMI, smoking, consumption of alcohol or recreational drugs when assessing new potential carers.

If your BMI is over 30 we will need to take further advice from your GP and our Medical Adviser to inform our decision and assessment of your suitability to foster and/or adopt. Additional information will be requested in line with BAAF National Practice Guidance.

There are no "blanket bans" on applicant's health status however if there is a high risk of a significant illness developing, those wishing to adopt or foster may be advised during stage one that their application will not be progressed.