

## **Central Bedfordshire Council hitting tough targets for adoption**

Central Bedfordshire Council is one of only 36 authorities in the country to meet challenging new Government targets for adoption according to figures released earlier this week.

In 2012 the publication of the Government's Action Plan for Adoption set out their plans and outlined their determination to speed up the adoption process and tackle damaging delays in the system. Part of the plan was to reduce the thresholds (the target timescales for adoption), so that councils had to act quicker to support adoptive families and place children. The result of this is that many councils who were previously meeting targets, are no longer doing so.

Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services, said:

"This is excellent news and is testament to the commitment and dedication of our staff, our adoptive parents and everyone involved in supporting the service. Adoption is a big priority for us, and this is a welcome boost as our new and important Corporate Parenting Service begins to take shape."