

Penny Appeal Adoption and Fostering

A Guide



ABOUT PENNY APPEAL

Our Philosophy

The Penny Appeal way of doing charity is simple – we take small change and make a BIG difference with it. Our unique approach makes charitable giving affordable and rewardable, and allows us to transform lives in ways that cost donors just a few pennies each day. We provide emergency aid and long-term solutions to poor people in over 30 crisis-hit countries worldwide, including the UK. We build wells, care for orphans, deliver urgent medical aid and healthcare, provide nutritious meals, open schools, orphanages and places of worship, care for the elderly and much more. A young and dynamic charity with an enviable social media footprint, we take an innovative approach to fundraising, PR and marketing, whilst maintaining a robust and world-class programme delivery department.

Our dedicated staff will be working on six strands of the project:

1. RECRUITMENT EVENTS

We will hold two drop-in sessions at 30 locations across the Midlands over the next year (about 60 events) depending on how many Ambassadors are referred to us. Ambassadors are Muslim adopters, foster carers, and local staff. We need volunteer ambassadors to help us to run 60 drop-ins over the next year. Your Ambassadors would represent your organisation at the events.

We will invite the local authority fostering and adoption team(s), two Independent Fostering Provides (IFPs) and two Voluntary Adoptions Agencies (VAAs) to each event. The Community Engagement Workers (CEWs) and Ambassadors will take contact information for all attendees. The list will be made available to all of the services which attend the event. Each attendee will also be processed via the Penny Appeal referral process. The aim of the process is to offer applicants impartial access and advice regarding all the fostering/adoption providers in their area.

2. REFFERALS PROCEDURES

Penny Appeal will carry out telephone assessments. We do this for two reasons; firstly, to ensure we are not flooding providers with unsuccessful referrals; and secondly, to offer Islamic guidance on topics such as caring for teenagers, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT), and caring for children of other religions/ethnicities.



3. ANTI-DISCRIMATORY PRACTICE (ADP) TRAINING

The ADP training will be in a 'train the trainers' format, whereby we are asking providers to send between 2 to 4 representatives (depending on the size of the service provider). Each representative will be given the presentation and notes from the training with the understanding that the representatives will commit to delivering the training in their own service within the following 3 months. The training will be over two days, from 9.30am to 2.45pm. There will be nominal charge of £95 per attendee to cover costs for the two days of training (including venue hire, lunch and snacks) for IFPs and VAAs - no cost to Local Authorities (LAs). There will not be any charges for use of training materials in subsequent in-house training

4. RESEARCH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF COVENTRY AND CoramBAAF

Penny Appeal's work over the next year will be assessed by Coventry University (the co-investigator is CoramBAAF). The researcher, Dr Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor, is a Muslim adopter who sits on the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) board for CoramBAAF. She will carry out quantitative and qualitative research (including data requests, freedom of information requests and ethnographic interviews with staff, adopters and the public). The focus of the research is the involvement of the Muslim community in the adoption process. The research report will also be available on the Penny Appeal website from December 2017.

5. GIFT BOXES

High quality gift boxes will be available for all Muslim children in care. We will provide a booklet with useful information about how to support the identity development of Muslim children in care. Also, the box will contain a prayer mat, prayer beads, head coverings and a small gift. Boxes are priced at £30, but Penny Appeal is offering subsidised/funded boxes when requested.

6. PRODUCTION OF ISLAMIC GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Penny Appeal has commissioned 15 scholars to write a guidance document to cover the Islamic perspective on adoption and fostering. The guidance will be available as a free download from the Penny Appeal website from September 2017. The scholars will also write a 'khutba', which is a talk/speech that will be read out at Friday prayers in local areas on the Friday before the recruitment events.



Jamila Khan & Hafza Iqbal



Community Engagement Workers (CEW)

The CEWs will lead on organising and facilitating recruitment in the Midlands - via community drop-ins, seminars and networking. The CEWs will be building up a network of Adoption and Fostering Ambassadors, who will offer local knowledge and offer support in a voluntary capacity.

Shabana Akthar



Referrals Advisor

Shabana will carry out all assessments that are received through the Penny Appeal contact centre (via the website and/or phone). Shabana will also process all the referrals for the project, including referrals to providers and identifying the best providers available to the applicants.

What's next?

Please find attached forms (word documents) for you to fill in and return to us if you wish to get involved. Please return these to us by 20th January, so we are able to plan our work over the next 12 months. We hope to hear from you soon and I look forward to an exciting year of recruitment, intervention and relationship building.

Furthermore, if you do not wish to be involved in this work, please do notify us by email as soon as possible, so that we do not need to follow up with you - many thanks in advance.

For any more information, please don't hesitate to call Tay Jiva (Adoption and Fostering Manager) on [07920097834](tel:07920097834) or email us at adoptionandfostering@pennyappeal.org.

We will be on hand to answer any questions you may have, and are looking forward to working with you in the future.

