

...professionals cont.

“Adoption is a big decision, but it could be the best you ever make. Often the LGBT+ community have the vital skills and experience needed to support children who are needing a forever home. Throughout the assessment process you should be made to feel welcome and treated equally. Hopes, fears, needs – **Adoption Counts** are here to listen intently and respond sensitively to them all. Why not head along to a information event where you can hear more about adoption from experienced staff and other LGBT+ families.”

Visit: www.adoptioncounts.org.uk

‘The Surrogacy journey to parenthood should be based on trust, mutual respect and, above all, friendship. Advertising for a surrogate is illegal in the UK, as is matching surrogates and intended parent(s) together. As such, meeting potential surrogates can prove difficult. The law stipulates that intended parent(s) must both be resident in the UK and, if in a couple, be living together. One intended parent must be genetically related to any baby born through surrogacy, so they must be able to use their own embryos, or only use donor sperm OR donor eggs. Double donation is not allowed. Surrogacy UK provides it's members with a variety of safe, proven ways to meet their potential surrogacy team mates.”

For more information visit surrogacyuk.org

“There are many routes into fostering, including through your local authority or through an independent fostering agency. We recommend asking around and do your research, often independent fostering agencies offer different packages of support so it is important to find an agency that suits you. Three Circles Fostering celebrate difference and actively work to improve acceptance and inclusion for all.”

Call 01625 533 531 or visit:
www.threecirclesfostering.com

Proud 2b Parents is an inclusive organisation for all routes to parenthood. We are run by and deliver services for LGBT+ parents/ carers to be, LGBT+ parents/carers and their children living in Greater Manchester.

Get in touch and get connected. Proud 2 b Parents doesn't want any parents or carers to be to feel isolated or unsure of their chosen route to parenthood. So find a local group like Proud 2b Parents, get in contact with them and meet people who have gone through it before.



@Proud2bparents

Contact us on info@proud2bparents.co.uk
or www.proud2bparents.co.uk
for more information.



'It's worth it!'



Run by and for LGBT+ parents/carers, their children and those considering parenthood living in Greater Manchester.

Advice for LGBT+ parents from Proud 2b Parents

with top tips from professionals in the field

'Talk to other LGBT+ families!'



LGBT parents' advice for those starting their route to parenthood.

Accessing support

"You really aren't alone or by any means the first or last people in this situation! Research and get an insight from other LGBT+ families. Establish links with a positive & knowledgeable group such as P2bP where you can be signposted and feel supported on your parenting journey. It's a great way to show your children other families like yours. It's also nice to be part of the community and have a variety of activities to engage in throughout the year. P2bP has really helped us to feel part of something, reduce the feeling of isolation you often feel when becoming an LGBT parent. It's great for my little one to see families that mirror theirs and to talk about different families and reflect on theirs"

Before you become a parent/carer

"Make the most of your sleep and your free time now as you'll have much less of both if you're lucky enough to have/ adopt/ foster a child. Parenting isn't an easy journey so make sure you've got a good support network around you and if you haven't - make contingency plans. Don't worry if you think your friends have the perfect family. All families have their difficulties and skeletons in the cupboard. Embrace imperfection. It's tough(!) but trust me you will enjoy every minute - the feeling you receive off your kids is second to none!"

Enjoy the journey, be prepared

"Follow your instincts. Be prepared for a rollercoaster of emotions so reach out through the difficult/nerve wracking times. Do your research, read around, go to information events, gain as much information about rights and routes to parenthood as possible and do what's best for you. The fun is just beginning, enjoy every minute.

Explore all your options and visit a few fertility clinics/foster or adoption agencies first to make sure you feel happy and confident with your choice and care. Go for it, ask questions, don't be shy or put off. Take each day as it comes and try not to focus on the end result (easier said than done we know). It's tough but you'll reap the rewards if you become a parent/carer. Patience and persistence.. link up with other parents to be...it is worth it..

If you're a couple work as a team and breath. Be firm, make sure you know what names you are each going to be called (i.e. Mama, Daddy etc) and stick to it, don't let others change it. Be a united front and decide if or how you share details of your parenting journey - you can choose how you respond to personal questions. You are both parents and others should recognise that."

What do the professionals say...

"Get it right from the start. Seek legal advice at an early stage from an LGBT specialist solicitor whether this be in relation to surrogacy, IVF, parental responsibility, donor agreements. Court proceedings can be difficult both emotionally and financially. Issues can be avoided or overcome with frank and open discussions and knowing the legal implications early on." **Suzanne Moore, Solicitor and Partner for Sinclair Law - Suzanne.Moore@sinclairlaw.co.uk**

"Assured Fertility know that starting a family is a big step. We recommend you understand all the options available before you embark on your journey. We have a number of specially designed IVF plans to help you achieve your dream, as well as a wealth of experience in providing support to the LGBT community. Our popular 100% refund IVF plans are designed to help give peace of mind during your treatment." Call 0333 234 0895 to chat through your options with a Patient Coordinator. **Don't forget to quote Proud2bparents at your consultation.**

"Pride Angel provides an alternative to traditional fertility clinic treatment using unknown donors.

You can find a known donor through our online connection service, meet the donor in person and even choose to stay in touch. If you are single you may even consider co-parenting as a way of creating your family. Pride Angel recommends seeking legal advice and health screening checks prior to fertility treatment and has over 80,000 registered members worldwide." **Visit: www.prideangel.com**