**NEW ADOPTION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

An adoptive parent has talked about the joy of becoming a mother as Northamptonshire County Council launches an appeal to find more adopters. Jane says adopting her two children is the best thing she’s ever done.

She said: “The joys far outweigh the challenges of being a parent. I can’t even remember was life was like before I had my two boys.”

Jane adopted the brothers two years ago as a single parent through Northamptonshire County Council.

She said: “I had been thinking about adopting since I was in my early 20s. For me, it was never about what I could get from being a mum, it was about what I had to offer.

“I assumed that being a single person would be an issue but I was pleased that the county council was really supportive and really positive about what I could bring.

“There have been challenges along the way, but becoming a family has been a wonderful experience and I have no regrets. I cannot explain the difference becoming a mother has made to my life.”

Northamptonshire County Council has approved 57 adopters since last April and placed 73 children for adoption. The time it takes for a new adopter to be approved is now just six months on average.

There is currently a need to find adoptive parents for children aged two and upwards, sibling groups, different ethnic groups and children with complex health needs.

Cllr Matthew Golby, county council cabinet member for families and learning, said: “Adopting a child is not a decision to be taken lightly, but our adopters tell us it is the most rewarding thing they have ever done.

“With an increasing number of looked after children in Northamptonshire, we are constantly looking for people to come forward and offer a stable, loving home to a child or young person. As Jane’s story shows, you don’t have to be married and there is no upper age limit.

“I would encourage anyone who is thinking about adoption to contact our team to find out more.”

The council is also looking to find new carers for its fostering for adoption programme, where a child is placed with adopters who are temporarily approved as the child’s foster carers whilst the court process is still going on.

More information about adoption including details of information events can be found at [www.couldyouadoptme.co.uk](http://www.couldyouadoptme.co.uk) Here people can find out more about the process, read stories from our adopters and make an enquiry online.