



## **Creating Adoption Networks Community Interest Company**

### **National Lottery Community Fund**

Total amount of funding - £14750

#### **Alton Towers waterpark private hire event – October 2024**

250 attendees. Approximately 85 adoptive families.

2-hour private hire event which enabled many adoptive families to attend that would not normally be able to go. We limited the number of tickets, had the music turned down and created a safe, non-judgemental space.

#### **Feedback –**

So nice to meet with other adoptive families in an informal way.

It was lovely to see so many smiling faces

So lovely to see so many adoptive families making happy memories that will last a lifetime.

The event was really good. It was nice to go to somewhere that was the right level of busy where children and parents could enjoy their time together free from judgement. As the venue was not to capacity it gave parents a chance to catch up as well as have fun. Really great event.

We all had a wonderful time at the waterpark event. The atmosphere was amazing- it was so nice knowing that everyone there would be kind and accepting of any of our children's needs. Our children were asking when we could do it all again before we even left the changing rooms. Thank you so much.

Comforting to be in a place of understanding where my daughter was safe to be herself and my parenting style was not judged.

It was nice to be with others where we won't don't judged

Amazing. I got super wet but that was the fun bit!

Enforcing family bonds through fun and enjoyment. Offering much needed bonding time in a safe environment with others in a similar situation facing similar difficulties and challenges.



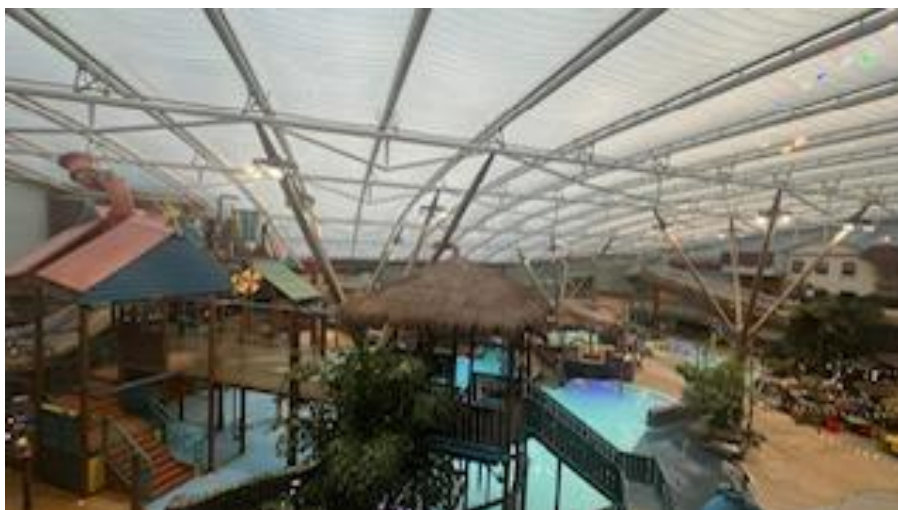
An absolutely brilliant night! Superbly organised and the kids had a GREAT time! Thank you so much!

Amazing opportunity for our family to be surrounded by others in the same situation, meaning the environment felt safe for our kids to their authentic selves and us parents had the support of other families who walk in our shoes. Fun was had by parents and kids, zero queuing for rides, pool and changing rooms.

It was lovely to be with people who may understand that your child may have social challenges and to feel supported.

Thank you for your hard work in pulling an event like this together. My kids were grumbling that I was making them come to this when they'd rather stay home, but afterwards they were all smiles, recalling moments during the event and laughing uncontrollably. It was great to have some bonding time with them where we all could relax and enjoy. Thank you, Clare and Lydia!

These events are a great opportunity for our children to mix with others in the same situation and for us as parents to share experiences in a safe environment. Good to know that the events are open across the country as we have strong local networks and this is helping to grow wider links and for my child to see there are many like her.





**Monday to Friday exclusive camp.**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025**

28 adoptive families came together in a private field on a campsite to spend the week together. At least 3 activities a day including bag decorating, crafts, sports, camp fire, entertainer, party night and tractor ride. Fully catered including BBQ's and communal meals.

Age range of children 4–18-year-olds

Youth volunteers supported the children and were amazing.

Locations of the families from - Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, London, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Essex, Coventry, Warwickshire.









#### Feedback –

Henlow camp is a fantastic initiative that brings together adopted children and parents from across the country in a relaxed and nurturing environment.

Amazing week. This gives our family a community where we belong. Our daughter has experiences she talks about all year and friendships that are growing all the time. Thank you, Clare and Lydia.

“ I don’t know why mummy but everything is more fun at camp- why is it?”

This week has incredible for children and families. It allows everyone to feel they are in a safe space and helps parents and children to feel understood and accepted.

This annual camp is the highlight of our year. Our daughter is able to be herself with no judgement and gets to meet up with friends and make new ones in a really safe space. Seeing our daughter grow in confidence year on year at camp is so lovely to see. She



doesn't stop having fun from morning to night. As parents we are able to mix with other adoptive parents who really understand our journey and we all offer each other peer support while at the same time being able to unwind and have fun. Thanks again for another relaxing week.

My daughter struggles with relationships and doesn't have any real friends at school, and the friendships she has made at Henlow camp mean the world to her. Camping gives her the freedom and independence she craves, and a readymade audience to sing to (sorry about that!)

Such an amazing week allowing parents to relax and talk to other adopters, share experiences and support and the children to make friends, be around peers and enjoy some managed independence! It's a highlight of our year.

Our son says camp was amazing! Camp gives us the valuable opportunity to network with other adopted families and provides a safe space for everyone to play together and be themselves. It's so valuable for parents and children to have this time together in a relaxed and judgement free environment.

The annual camping event is one of the highlights of our year. My daughter loves the freedom, opportunity to be amongst a great group of children and supportive parents. She also loves all the craft activities. This event provides my daughter the chance to become more independent and braver. Myself and my husband love the opportunity to be in a place where we can relax knowing our child is in a safe environment making the best memories.

This event offers a unique opportunity for families with adopted children to come together and share experiences in a safe, understanding, and supportive environment. There is nothing quite like it, and the kids (and adults!) make lifelong friends that make such a difference to their lives. It's a truly wonderful experience that we count down too each year.

"I enjoyed being a junior kind of helper, as I am now 18.

I liked helping the little ones. I made pancakes and waffles for about 30 children and some of the adults.

My favourite activity was colouring my new make-up bag (some people used theirs as pencil cases).

I loved the camp, seeing some of my other friends again, and being with other children. The food, including the BBQ on the first night, was great. We also had s'mores and sang campfire songs."



### **Alton Towers waterpark private hire event – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

We have another private waterpark event arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> October. 250 tickets have been snapped up. This year we are working with Merlin's Magic Wand and were gifted 250 free theme park tickets. Many of the families are attending the theme park on either the Saturday or the Sunday and making a weekend with the waterpark event.

### **Funding**

£14775 funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.

Remaining as of 03/08/2025 - £85.76

This remaining amount will cover the travel to the waterpark event in October.