



Looking ahead to the presentation of her Bill, Andrea Leadsom said:

“Babies born directly on to the Child Protection Register (CPR) are amongst the most vulnerable in society. We have a duty to do all we can to ensure that they have a good start in life. Helping them to form secure emotional bonds with those caring for them is essential.

In the first year of life, our brains form a staggering one million connections per second. Decisions on what’s right for babies and their parents are some of the toughest that society has to take, and, because of how babies’ brains develop, those decisions have to be taken quickly.

As things stand, the picture is bleak. It’s well established that very few babies born on to the CPR who are taken into care are adopted before their first birthday.

My 10 Minute Rule Bill would focus on cases where no adoption plan is in place. Providing these families with psychotherapeutic support would offer the best possible chance of baby and Mum forming a secure bond. But it would also mean that action can be taken before it’s too late if, as sadly will sometimes be the case, they aren’t able to do so. What better time could there be than National Adoption Week to embrace this approach?

It’s essential, on many different levels, to get adoption policy right. The Government is already making good progress. I hope my Bill will tackle a gap in current provision, and in the process make a real difference to people who need all the help we can give them.”