

adoption service, including facilities such as support services. An 'adoption agency' includes the adoption service provided by the local authority and it also includes other registered adoption societies (voluntary agencies). These voluntary agencies are regulated by the **Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005**.

It is the responsibility of the adoption agency to identify and make arrangements for the placement of a child who is being 'looked after' by the local authority. The vast majority of placements are managed by the local authority adoption agency.

### Task 3

Using your research skills identify three other voluntary adoption agencies in the UK regulated by the **Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005**.

#### **S.93 ACA 2002:**

It is a criminal offence for anyone other than an adoption agency to make arrangements for the adoption of a child or to place a child for adoption. However, there is no bar on making arrangements for a private placement – (see later in the Unit).

#### Duties of adoption agency

The core activities and responsibilities are governed by the **Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005** which came into effect on 30 December 2005. The purpose of the agency is to identify and assess prospective adopters, provide adoption support services for all parties involved and to provide counselling and post adoption services.

One of the key areas where the duties have been extended is the requirement to ascertain the child's wishes and feelings in relation to the adoption and contact, and to ascertain the views of the parents.

Fathers without parental responsibility are also to be offered counselling and their wishes ascertained. Once the adoption agency has identified and assessed prospective adopters and identified a match with a child, the adoption agency must prepare a report on the adopters and child (if matched) for the **adoption panel**. This report is prepared by a social worker who is part of the adoption agency team. (The report replaces the old form E). For more information see [www.baaf.org.uk](http://www.baaf.org.uk).

The report concerning the prospective adopters must fully investigate their circumstances and assess their ability to bring up an adopted child. The investigation will include police checks and a medical report. A report on the child must also include a medical report and details of the child's development, and ascertain the child's wishes.