

If you or any of your family
have been affected by adoption
you may be eligible for
post adoption support services



What are post adoption support services?

We are here to support adoptive families who are affected by specific adoption issues. Every family has a few problems along the way and adoptive families are no different.

We can provide specialist support on specific adoption issues that you might face whilst your child is growing up.

To find out whether our service is the right one for you we will do an assessment. There is no automatic entitlement to services but together we will explore what is available to meet your needs. This may be either through us or another service/agency.

Who can ask for post adoption support services?

You are entitled to ask for support if:

- you live in Essex and you adopted your child through Essex;
- your adopted child's adoption order was made over three years ago and you now live in Essex;
- you do not live in Essex but you adopted your child less than three years ago through the Essex Adoption Service;
- if you've adopted from abroad then you may be eligible for our service and we will discuss it with you.

How to contact us

You can phone us at any time during office hours and we will take your details. A duty social worker will then contact you to talk over the reason for your call. We will then agree the next step with you.

What is the next step?

Together we will agree one of the following options:

- advice and information may be all that you need at this stage;
- we may agree that the services you need would be best provided by an alternative agency or department and will support you in accessing these;
- we will arrange for an appointment at your convenience so that we can do an assessment of your support needs. Once we've completed the assessment we will share it with you and agree a plan of action.

What kind of support is available?

All families have their 'ups and downs'. However, being an adoptive family can bring extra challenges and as adoption is a lifelong journey, we recognise you may need our help from time to time.

We provide a number of specific support services focused on your needs at different stages until your child is 18 years old. We tailor our service to specific needs so not all of these services will be appropriate for every family.

- Life story work
- Parenting support on adoption issues
- Identity work
- Self esteem, anger and work on a range of other issues linked specifically to adoption
- Advice on adoption issues
- Consultation and mediation with other agencies, for example schools and health professionals
- Use of therapeutic play techniques with families (Theraplay)
- Training (brochure available)
- A wide range of services supporting contact arrangements
- Social events organised by Adoption UK in conjunction with Essex
- Financial support to help with the extra costs of parenting your adopted child bearing in mind their specific needs and your financial resources.

If you want to comment or complain about our service

We are passionate about meeting the needs of adoptive families and therefore welcome feedback to help us improve our service.

If you are unhappy with our service we will try to put things right but if this is not to your satisfaction, you can request a copy of our complaints procedure on 08457 430430.

Useful contacts

Adoption UK

www.adoptionuk.org

Telephone: **01295 752240**

British Association for Adoption and Fostering

www.baaf.org.uk

Telephone: **0207 421 2600**

Barnados

www.barnados.org.uk

Telephone: **01206 562438**

Child and Family Consultation Service (CFCS)

Part of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
Contact your GP to ask for a referral.

This booklet is issued by

Essex County Council Adoption Service.

You can contact us in the following ways:

By telephone:

01245 436 311

By email:

post.adoption@essex.gov.uk

Visit our website:

www.essex.gov.uk/adoption

The information contained in this document can be translated, and/or made available in alternative formats, on request.

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