

ADOPTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT TEAM



Children and Young People's Services

If your child requires extra support related to adoption, you can request an adoption support assessment.

Local authorities provide and fund a range of support services for children adopted from care. Many of these are generic services which can be accessed by any child assessed as being 'in need of additional support', however if a child requires support related to their adoption, you can request an adoption support assessment from the Adopted Children's Support Team.

These support services can include:

- Advice and support on parenting a child adopted from care.
- Advice on sharing your child's birth family history.
- Support for children and young people who have questions about their identity.
- Advice and strategies related to attachment and loss.
- Help with contact between your adopted child and his or her birth family.
- Meetings and events to enable groups of adopters and adoptive children to get together.
- Weekly 'surgery' appointments with a social worker throughout the County to discuss specific issues.
- Training to help parents to meet the needs of their adoptive child.
- In acute circumstances, short breaks with a foster carer for your child whilst work is undertaken to address the difficulties your family are experiencing.
- Advice and support to other professionals working with adopted children including schools and Health.
- Help to access therapeutic services.

Adoptive parents can also request an assessment for financial support.

Every adopted child is entitled to an assessment of their adoption support needs, but which services you are able to access will depend on your circumstances.

If you want advice on adoption support you can also contact one of the many adoption support organisations, such as Adoption UK (www.adoptionuk.org.uk), PAC-UK (<http://www.pac-uk.org/>) or First 4 Adoption (www.first4adoption.org.uk)

Who can request an assessment to be made?

If your child was placed through North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and you live here, we can offer you a service.

If your child was placed by NYCC and you live in another Local Authority, we can give you support for three years after the Adoption Order was granted. After that we will negotiate the transfer of support to your local council.

If you live here but your child was placed by another authority and the adoption order was granted less than three years ago, the placing authority remains responsible for the adoption support services.

If the adoption order was granted more than three years ago, you can contact us.

How can I access adoption support services?

You can write, telephone or email us. We will arrange for you to come to the office or we may visit you at home. We will talk with you and your child about the support you feel is needed and undertake an assessment of the family circumstances.

Should the assessment identify the need for the provision of a service we will then agree a plan which will outline objectives, timescales, and a period of review to assess the progress of any intervention or service to be provided.

Contact Details:

Adopted Children's Support Team
80 High Street
Starbeck
Harrogate
HG2 7LW

NYCC Adoption Duty Line, phone 01904 566007
Email: adoption@northyorks.gov.uk

What happens following the assessment?

The assessment will indicate whether or not there is a need for a service and, if there is a need, will propose how this may be provided - either by delivering it ourselves or referring to an outside agency. You should be aware that there is not an automatic right to services; however we do try to ensure that you receive the services you need.

Once the proposal is agreed this becomes your Adoption Support Plan.

Education

Schools are asked to give all children adopted from care priority access to schools, which means that your child should be able to attend whichever school you think best meets their needs.

Guidance to school admission authorities can be found at;

www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admission-of-children-adopted-from-local-authority-care

Your child will also attract the Pupil Premium – an additional £1900 for state-funded schools to help meet their needs. You will need to let the school know that your child is adopted so that the school can claim the pupil premium.

If your child is 2 years old you can take up the offer of a free early education place. For more information about provision in your area you should contact North Yorkshire's Family Information Service;

Email: fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk

Telephone: [0845 601 1630](tel:08456011630)

Mobile: Text "info" to [07624 802425](tel:07624802425)

You can also find out more at www.gov.uk/free-early-education

