

Adoption

# Support for Adoptive Families



## Introduction

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets is an Adoption Agency and under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 has a duty to provide a range of support services to people affected by adoption including children and adults who are adopted, birth relatives and adoptive families.



## What is Adoption Support?

Adoption Support covers a wide range of services available through social services, education, health and other related services within health and social care. These include:

- Therapeutic services for adopted children.
- Counselling, information and advice.
- Mediation services.
- Support to prevent the disruption of an adoption.
- Groups and Events for adopters and birth relatives
- Training for adopters in order to meet the needs of a child.
- Respite care if this is considered to be in the child's interest.

In step parent adoptions the services provided are limited to the provision of counselling, advice and information and in exceptional circumstances services can be provided to Inter-country Adopters.



## Adoption Support Services Adviser (ASSA)

All Adoption Support Agencies have an Adoption Support Services Adviser (ASSA) who is the central point of contact providing information and advice about adoption matters. The ASSA is responsible for liaising with other local authorities and adoption support agencies. In Tower Hamlets, the responsibility for Adoption Support is held by the Adoption Team Manager.

## Who will provide your Adoption Support?

No matter where you live, if you have adopted children through Tower Hamlets within the past three years LBTH may be able to offer you a service. After that time your support needs become the responsibility of the local authority in which you live.

If you live in the borough and adopted children through another agency more than three years ago you can ask us to provide you and your family with support.

The exception to this is the provision of financial support agreed before the order was made, which we will continue to pay and review periodically for the duration of the agreed term.



## How can I access Adoption Support Services from Tower Hamlets?

You can write, phone or make contact with us via email. Once we receive your enquiry, a social worker will be allocated to work with you and will carry out an assessment of your support needs. An assessment takes into account your family's individual circumstances, identifies your needs, looks at the resources needed to meet them and determines which are available locally.

Following the assessment a written report will be compiled for the agency. You would be advised of the outcome in writing.

The Adoption and Children Act makes it clear that local authorities must act reasonably in deciding whether to provide adoption support services following an assessment. You may want to ask your assessing social worker for information about adoption support during your home study.



## Who can request an Adoption Support Assessment?

- Adopted children, their parents or guardians
- Anyone wanting to adopt a child
- Birth relatives of an adopted child
- Brothers and sisters of an adopted child
- Other children of adoptive parents.

## What if I disagree with my assessment?

You should talk to the social worker who carried out your assessment to try to resolve the difficulties. If you are not satisfied you can contact the Adoption Team Manager who will work with you to try to resolve the matter. If you are still unhappy we will give you advice about how you can take your complaint further.

## Can you help me manage my child's contact arrangements?

Tower Hamlets has a duty to promote contact between adopted children and their birth families.

Your contact arrangements will have been agreed with you in advance. A signed agreement outlining the frequency and type of contact, and everyone involved in the arrangements will be given to you.

You may have a letterbox arrangement or face to face contact which we will help you to manage and review.

See our leaflet on contact for more details.



## How can I contact Adoption Support?

You can write, telephone or email us at:

Permanence and Adoption Support Team  
3rd Floor Mulberry Place  
5 Clove Crescent,  
London,  
E14 2BG

**Tel:** 020 7364 5335

**Email:** [adoption@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:adoption@towerhamlets.gov.uk)





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