

Adoption

# Support to Special Guardians



## Introduction

Tower Hamlets is a Registered Adoption Support Agency and as such provides a support service to special guardians and adopters. This is provided by group of social workers based in the Permanency and Adoption Support Team.

## Legal Framework

The framework for support to special guardians is set out under the Special Guardianship Regulations 2005.

## What Support is Available to Special Guardians?

- Financial support
- Services to allow children, parents, special guardians and prospective guardians to discuss matters of special guardianship.
- Assistance, including mediation in relation to contact with parents or relatives.
- Therapeutic services to meet the needs of the child.
- Assistance to meet the needs of the child to include, training, mediation or respite care.

## The Adoption Support Fund

The Fund is available to special guardians to provide funding for any therapeutic needs for your child and family. Our Adoption Support Fund leaflet explains what therapies are available but please speak to your support social worker for further information and advice.

## Who can ask for support?

- Special guardians
- The child

- Parents of the child
- Other relatives or persons with a relationship with the child.

You can ask for an assessment of your support needs at any time. A social worker would meet with you to gather information for a report. A decision as to the provision of services would then be made and conveyed to you.

Tower Hamlets will provide support to all guardians for three years after the granting of the order. If you live outside of the borough, after three years your support needs will be the responsibility of your own local authority.

If you continue to live in the borough we will provide the support as and when you need it.

If you have moved into Tower Hamlets from another area and it has been three years since the date of your order you can contact Tower Hamlets for support. This includes learning opportunities, support groups and social events for guardians and children.

## Financial Support

Some guardians may receive financial support in the form of an allowance. This is reviewed annually to take into account any change of circumstances. Tower Hamlets has responsibility for this financial support throughout the time you are caring for the child.

Financial support will stop under the following circumstances:

- The child ceases to live with the guardian
- Child ends full time education and begins to work.

- Child qualifies for income support or Job Seekers allowance
- Child becomes 18; but if they are in full time education the allowance can continue to the end of the course or training period.

## Support Provided by Tower Hamlets

### Social Work Support

We have dedicated social workers providing support to special guardians. They are based in the Permanency and Adoption Support Team. Once you have your Guardianship Order your case will be transferred to this team. You will be contacted by a social worker from the team. They will arrange to meet with you to discuss your support needs.

### Support with Contact

We can help if you are experiencing difficulties in your contact arrangements. We can mediate between family members if necessary. In some cases we can arrange and supervise contact.

### Support Groups

They allow guardians to meet and share experiences and to offer advice to each other. Guest speakers also attend to speak on topics of interest to guardians.

### Events

For guardians and their children and includes picnics, parties and fun activities for children.

### Learning

We provide a range of training and opportunities to learn for guardians. These include First Aid, Managing Difficult Behaviours, Dealing with Drugs and Alcohol to Managing Contact. Our brochures are sent out each year. You can discuss your learning needs with your support social worker.

### Newsletter

We provide newsletters with information of help to guardians. We welcome contributions from guardians.

## How can I get a Support Service?

When your Guardianship Order has been granted your assessing social worker will transfer your case to the Permanency and Adoption Support Team. You will be contacted by a social worker to discuss your support needs as set out in your support plan.

### The team is based at

Permanency, Adoption and Support Team  
4th Floor, Mulberry Place  
5 Clove Crescent  
London, E14 2BG

Telephone: 020 7364 5431.

Emergency Duty Team: 020 7364 4079.

Contact us at anytime if you need a support service.

## Useful Agencies

### Grandparents Plus

Information, support and advice to people caring for family members.

Tel: 0300 123 7015

Email: [advice@grandparentsplus.org.uk](mailto:advice@grandparentsplus.org.uk)

### Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

General advice and information service for the public.

Tel: 03444 111 444

Email: [towerhamlets@eastendcab.org.uk](mailto:towerhamlets@eastendcab.org.uk)  
32 Greatorex St, E1 5NP



**TOWER HAMLETS**

**Tower Hamlets Fostering  
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Tel: 0800 279 9850

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[www.fosteringandadoption.co.uk](http://www.fosteringandadoption.co.uk)

