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**Post Adoption Order Check-in**

At the point of the adoption order being granted the child is legally adopted and the adoptive parent(s) have full parental responsibility for the child. The adoption Social Worker must ensure that all other tasks are completed such as life story book, later life letter, in preparation for the celebration hearing. NB. The later life letter is due 10 days after celebration hearing. A photograph should be taken, by the child’s Social Worker or the adoption social worker at the celebration hearing and added to the child’s life story.

Experience has shown us that there are a few areas that need to be further explored with the adoptive parents past the point of Order. For the purposes of recording the LCS record should be opened on the child in Post Order Support (check with Letterbox Co-Ordinator if a Bucks child and this hasn’t already been opened).

If a Bucks child is matched with adopters out of county the same will occur but the Family Finder will do this check in. The child will already be open on LCS as we will be responsible for contact

**Post Adoption Order Support Timetable**

The adopters will be aware of this post order contact from Preparation training and throughout assessment. The child’s record will be open on Post Adoption Support (PAS) – case notes will be added, and the record closed (unless other services continuing i.e. contact, therapy).

At 3 months post order, a telephone call should be made to the adopters to check in.

At 6 months post order, a visit should take place with the adopters, including time spent with the child

At 12 months post order, another face-to-face visit and time spent with the child.

If at any of these points, we know further intervention is needed prior to visit, consider joint visit with PAS to “handover”.  We will need to obtain consent if further intervention is needed, this would be addressed within an assessment of need. PAS will be from the Local authority who placed the child.

**Areas to consider**

1. **Have the parents started to use the life story book**, or do they need support through workshops and/or Life Story consultation? – if support is needed, Recruitment and Assessment Adoption Social Worker sets up life story consultation with PAS. Additional support can be accessed below.

**Life Story Work:**

Life Story Works- <http://www.lifestoryworks.org/Life_Story_Works/HOME.html>

Adoption Life Story Books- <http://www.adoptionlifestorybooks.co.uk/>

1. **Has the Adoption certificate been issued? -** The process is that the court that granted the adoption order emails it to the General Registrar’s Office Adoption Team. The GRO then sends out the new certificate. If the adopters have not received the Adoption certificate, the adopters will need to contact adoptions@gro.gov.uk. The processing time is approximately 4 weeks once the General Register Office has received the Adoption Order from the Court.
2. **Are the family in need of a Family Network meeting** – regardless of whether they had a FNM during Stage 2, there’s often a need to repeat. This meeting will explain further about areas such as Life story work, Therapeutic parenting, letterbox/direct contact and any other areas that the adopters feel may be beneficial for their family. This meeting should be face to face and is beneficial at this stage for discussion to take place regarding the new child in the family and his/her needs.
3. **Junior ISA** - Our ‘main contact’ for Buckinghamshire is the central support team,– the number we have for the team is 01296 387633 and email address: centralsupportteammailbox@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

In relation to a young person being identified to The Share Foundation who administer the accounts, this all starts through a regular data submission from the local authority to The Share Foundation. The change of status of a young person (i.e., from ‘in care’ to ‘left care’) is submitted via this data.

Therefore, when a young person leaves care to be adopted, they would need to be included in the data submission. This would then generate a ‘status change letter’ that is sent via email to our main contact at the local authority for onward distribution to the person with parental responsibility (PR). This letter provides all the information to the person with PR on how they can take control of the account now the young person is no longer in care. This is taken from reason for closure on the child in LCS reporting i.e. adopted child now left care.

If adopters have not received this at the 3 month check in, we can contact our resource team to alert them this is still required.

1. **Contact** – Need to ascertain if there have been any issues with contact. Has, any contact occurred? This would be recorded on the child’s LCS record in the PAS module.
2. **Therapeutic parenting** – have they accessed a course e.g. eLearning course via our subscription to CATCH or SPACE group, GBB etc

**Management oversight**

This will be recorded every three months unless activity occurs outside of the contact with adopters at 3, 6 and 12 months.

The PAS episode will close for Bucks children if no current involvement or contact already taken place. This will need to be discuss with PAS ATM to agree.

**Here is a brief list of books that can be recommended to Adopters:**

* Louise Bomber- Inside I’m Hurting: Practical Strategies for Supporting Children with Attachment Difficulties in School
* Heather Geddes- Attachment in the Classroom
* Caroline Archer- First Steps in Parenting the Child who Hurts and Next Steps in Parenting the Child who Hurts
* Caroline Archer and Christine Gordon- New Families, Old Scripts
* Bryan Post- The Great Behaviour Breakdown
* Daniel Hughes (everything he writes!)- Attachment Focused Parenting
* Margot Sunderland- What Every Parent Needs to Know
* Richard Rose – Life Story Therapy with Traumatized Children
* Joy Rees- Life Story Books for Adopted Children: A Family Friendly Approach
* Nicola Morgan- Blame My Brain