Adoption Central England provides a range of support services for children and families who are at various stages of their adoption journey.

This list of services identifies a range of support available to families that could be provided within their own support network, by Adoption Central England (ACE) or from universal services. The list is circulated to adopters within their post approval pack, social workers to assist with adoption support plans and assessments of needs and Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) to assist with looked after child placed for adoption reviews.

Please contact [enquiries@aceadoption.com](mailto:enquiries@aceadoption.com) if you are aware of additional services that would be helpful to access whilst supporting adoptive families.

**Support Services**

**for Adopters**

**within the ACE Region**

**Practice Guidance:**

**Name changes for children placed for adoption**

**Support Available within own family network**

* Family
* Relatives
* Friends
* Social support groups, faith group, local stay and play
* Websites/internet/social media

**ACE Support**

* **ACE provides a 4 tier service** depending on the assessed need of the family. This may include the following
* **Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy** – DDP

ACE is working towards becoming a DDP certified regional adoption agency. DDP is based on and brings together attachment theory, what we understand about developmental trauma, the neurobiology of trauma, attachment and caregiving, inter-subjectivity theory and child development. ACE aims to work with adoptive families and professionals using the principles of DDP to ensure that adopters have the knowledge and understanding of the impact of their child’s early trauma and how to provide a safe and loving home to enable their child to reach their full potential.

* ACE will review **Support Plans and undertake an Assessment of Need**.
* **Duty surgery** appointments – 4 appointments available a week in a spoke office.
* **Support groups** – Opportunity for adopters to meet once a month to discuss adoption issues and meet guest speakers. These support groups are available to adopters who have completed therapeutic parenting and NVR courses.
* **Mentoring** – Experienced adopters provide planned telephone support to new adopters who have had children recently placed. Mentors will contact the new adopter by phone at an agreed time to offer a “listening ear” support. This is a valuable support from people who have experience of being an adoptive parent. For further information contact - ACE social workers amandabeament @aceadoption.com or lindamckeown@aceadoption.com
* **Counselling** – ACE recognises that once children are placed it can raise unresolved issues for the adult or marital issues as the family dynamics change. ACE will fund a maximum of four sessions of counselling provided by a Systemic Family Therapist/Counsellor, For further information contact fionachikumbirike@aceadoption.com
* **Therapeutic Team** – provides a range of courses and individual support including Non Violent Resistance, attachment and therapeutic parenting, Parent Child Attachment Play, Theraplay. Details of training are on the website. Adopters can express interest via the website. Social workers can book via [9ju](mailto:Daniellemullings@aceadoption.com) or laramatlay@aceadoption.com.
* **ACE newsletter** – quarterly newsletter uploaded to the website.
* **Stay and play support groups** – Theraplay themed.
* **Fun events** – picnics and fun days – opportunities for adopters and children to meet.
* **A range of training** – To support adopters and children through their adoption journey. Courses include Eat, Sleep and Play, Introduction and Early Days of Placement. Details are on the website.
* **Financial assessments** – Local authorities are responsible for financial assessments. Each LA has a different process and eligibility criteria i.e. basic adoption allowances (means tested), additional needs may apply in some cases dependent on the emotional and physical needs of the child. Both are annually reviewed by the Local Authority.
* **Independent birth parent service**. A service that supports birth parents once a plan of adoption has been made. Support groups are held in some areas. Birth parents can be supported with writing letters for their letterbox exchange and accessing other universal services.
* **Letterbox** contact between the birth family and adopters is supported by the letterbox coordinator. The letterbox coordinator can advise on what to include within a letter to ensure that communication between all parties is in the best interests of the child.
* **Birth records counselling and Access to records** Adults that were adopted through the local authorities within the ACE region or those adopted adults who live in the ACE region can request to have access to their birth records. ACE does not provide a search and intermediary service.
* One off consultation with a clinical psychologist may be available.
* ACE website and Facebook – provide training information, links to resources and research.

**Contact ACE:**

[**enquiries@aceadoption.com**](mailto:enquiries@aceadoption.com)

**0300 369 0556**

**Targeted and Emotional Well-being**

**Children’s Services**

**Children’s Services, Family Support, Early Help, SEND** Each Local authority provides services for children and families. ACE may refer adopted children/families on to children services if the needs of the child/family would be best met by this service.

**Targeted Youth** – support children who have low school attendance, emotional and well-being needs, at risk of being looked after.

**Physical and Mental Health Services**

**GP** - physical and mental well-being appointments.

**Solihull & West Midlands Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Support Group 2019**: A support group for families affected by FASD. The group is meeting on the 12th October and the 7th December 2019 from 10am-12pm at the Maypole Youth Centre, Idmiston Croft, Birmingham, B14 5NJ. Please email before your initial visit: Sol\_westmidsFASDgroup@yahoo.com.

**CAMHS/LAC Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services** - CAMHS are the NHS services that assess and treat young people with emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties. CAMHS support covers depression, problems with food, self-harm, abuse, violence or anger, bipolar, schizophrenia and anxiety, to name a few.

**Therapeutic providers** - ACE commissions a wide range therapeutic services i.e. clinical psychologist, play therapist, creative therapies, and extensive life story work. These interventions are funded by the Adoption Support Fund once a child has been matched. Foster for adoption placements are not eligible for ASF funding until the match has been approved as an adoptive placement.

**RISE** (formerly Journeys) partnered with Coventry and Warwickshire MIND to transform emotional well-being and mental health services for children and young people - **024 7655 2847**.

**Integrated Services for Looked After Children** (ISL) clinical psychologists work as part of the multi-agency, holistic service, jointly provided and managed by Health and Children’s Services in Worcestershire – accessible for children with a Worcestershire postcode - **01905 760000**.

**Speech and language therapy** – provide life-changing treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with communication, or with eating, drinking and swallowing. Help for people who, for physical or psychological reasons, have problems speaking and communicating.

**Warwickshire Safe Haven Service for people experiencing mental distress (16 years and over)** – Based in Leamington Spa and Nuneaton: At CAVA in Leamington Spa, Monday - Wednesday 6pm-11pm (4&6 Clemens Street, Leamington Spa, CV31 2DL) and at CAVA in Nuneaton, Thursday - Sunday 6pm -11pm (The Newtown Centre, Newtown Rd, Nuneaton, CV11 4HG).

**The**[**2019 Mental Health Directory**](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTkwODE0LjkwODU3NDEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTkwODE0LjkwODU3NDEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNzQyMzc4NyZlbWFpbGlkPWJyZW5kYXZpbmNlbnRAYWNlYWRvcHRpb24uY29tJnVzZXJpZD1icmVuZGF2aW5jZW50QGFjZWFkb3B0aW9uLmNvbSZ0YXJnZXRpZD0mZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUlkPSYmJg==&&&109&&&http://www.wcava.org.uk/directory-of-mental-health-provision) of support services across Warwickshire, produced by Warwickshire CAVA has been launched. The Directory contains information from organisations, groups and agencies that provide services to support people affected by mental health issues.

**Universal Services**

**Education**

**Education psychologists** – Educational psychology is concerned with children and young people in education and early years settings. Educational psychologists tackle challenges such as learning difficulties, social and emotional problems, and issues around disability as well as more complex developmental disorders.

**Educational psychologists courses** – 6 week transition training course – attachment, managing transitions and parental expectations. Accessible for all adopters within the ACE region. For further information contact [fionachikumbirike@aceadoption.com](mailto:fionachikumbirike@aceadoption.com)

**SENDIAS** – Information, Advice and Support service providing impartial and confidential information, advice and support for parents/carers, children and young people around issues relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

**School services** - Educational health care plans.

**Pupil Premium Plus** – the Pupil Premium provides extra funding to state-funded schools to help their staff give extra support to disadvantaged pupils including, but not restricted to, those adopted from care.

**Virtual School** – The Virtual School Heads promote the educational achievement of the children who are looked after by the local authority they work for. They also manage Pupil Premium Plus funding, which is an extra payment that schools receive for each Looked After child, and previously Looked After Child, on their roll.

**Educational Advisors** Some Local authorities have appointed an educational advisor to work with school and parents of adopted or previously looked after children. They hold either telephone or face to face consultations.

**Free nursery placements** – Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is additional funding for early years pre-school settings to improve the education they provide for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds including, but not restricted to, those adopted from care.

**Other useful services**

**Child Benefit** – can be applied for once the child has been placed.

**Family Information Service** (FIS) - a local authority service that provides free, impartial information and advice on a wide range of services for children and young people (birth to 25 years old), parents and families.

**NSPCC** provides therapeutic services to help children move on from abuse and support parents and families in caring for their children - **0808 800 5000**.

**New Family Social** is the UK network for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) adoptive and foster families – **0843 2899457**.

**Adoption UK** is a charity providing support, community and advocacy for all those parenting or supporting children who cannot live with their birth parents. Adoption UK runs a range of courses and events to support adoptive families. Email [admin@adoptionuk.org.uk](mailto:admin@adoptionuk.org.uk) **01295 752240**.

**Home for Good: Worcestershire –** Home for Good are a faith based group who regularly run coffee mornings, family days and offer practical and emotional support to adoptive families in the Worcester area.



