



BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST

Post Adoption Support Service Referral Criteria

The Post Adoption Support Service provides an ongoing social work service to:

- Birmingham adoptive families who have an Adoption Order granted.
- Families who live in the Birmingham area, have been adopted from another Local Authority and the Adoption Order has been granted for over 3 years.
- Interagency families living outside of the Birmingham area who have an Adoption Order granted, have adopted a Birmingham child and are within 3 years of the order being granted.

Adoption alone is not a reason to refer

Families made by Adoption are legally like any other family once an Adoption Order has been made. Adoptive families can have a wide range of needs and these needs should be considered alongside the Right Service Right Time framework.

Adoption Support is a self-referral service for adoptive parents.

We accept referral enquiries from:

1. Adoptive Parents
2. Adoption Agencies
3. Adult Adoptees
4. Adopted Children
5. Birth Families and Adopters in Relation to Letterbox Contact

Also:

We can offer advice and support to area colleagues, other Local Authority Social Workers, Adoption Agencies or other multi-agency partners (i.e. health and education).

If you have concerns about a family and you think that we may be able to help, in the first instance you should encourage the parents to contact us via:

POST ADOPTION DUTY HELPLINE

0121 303 1010

Or Email:

DutyPostAdoptionSupport@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

We will ask you for some details in order to progress your enquiry and a Social Worker will get in touch with you to find out more.

An Assessment of your Adoption Support Needs can lead to:

- Specialist Assessment and/ or Therapeutic Support within the scope of the [Adoption Support Fund](#)
- Social Work Support
- Signposting to appropriate services

The Post Adoption Support Team have access to a small Clinical Psychology resource which supports the ASF and provides consultation and training across the Adoption Service. Please note this service is not a substitute for statutory Health, Educational Psychology, multi-disciplinary or crisis response mental health provision.

ADOPTION RELATED ISSUES INCLUDE:

- Support to parents to facilitate attachment security.
- Supporting emotional wellbeing, behavioural and/ or developmental needs relating to significant early adversity.
- Support to help parents talk to children about their Life Story and understand their adoption.
- Support to adopters and birth families with Letterbox Contact until their child reaches the age of 18 years.
- Counselling support to adult adoptees to access their birth records in Birmingham or access to file information for adult adoptees living outside the area.

REFERRALS THAT ARE NOT WITHIN SCOPE:

1. We are not a crisis response service

If a family requires a crisis social care response then they need to contact CASS on 0121 303 1888 between 8:45am-5:15pm Monday to Thursday and 8:45am-4:15pm on Friday. Outside of these times contact can be made with the Emergency Duty Team, including over the weekend on 0121 675 4806.

If there is a mental health crisis (including significant risk of self-harm or suicidal ideation, or if someone is in immediate physical danger), please dial 999 or visit your nearest A & E department. Alternatively contact the Forward-Thinking Birmingham Crisis Team on 0300 300 0099 (select Option 1).

2. The Post Adoption Support Team is not a multi-disciplinary mental health service

If there are concerns about a child's mental health referrers should consider contacting the child/family's G.P. and/or Forward-Thinking Birmingham. For example:

- Where the **primary** presenting difficulty includes psychiatric assessment or intervention (including medication as a primary intervention).
 - Psychosis, major depression or other severe mental illness.
 - Significant eating disorders.
 - Significant self-harm or suicidal ideation.
 - Complex neuro-developmental presentations (Learning Disability, ASD, ADHD, FASD).
 - Drug and alcohol mis-use.
3. If there are safeguarding concerns related to the mental health or emotional well-being of the adoptive parent which are affecting the child, a referral should be made to CASS on 0121 303 1888.
4. Referral where the primary presenting issue relates to school- based difficulties, the school should consider a referral to the Educational Psychology Service or seek guidance from the Virtual School in the first instance.