



South East Wales Adoption Service
Achieving More Together

Gwasaneth Mabwysiadu Deddwyrain Cymru
Cyflawni Mwy Gyda'n Gilydd I

Adoption Support

Information for parents 2017

"Working with families to achieve positive outcomes in adoption"



**For Children
For Families
For Always.**

The South East Wales Adoption Service
North Wing, Block B, Mamhilad house, Mamhilad
Park Estate, Pontypool, NP4 0HZ
Adoption@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
01495 355766

Introduction to Adoption Support Services

Adoption is a life-long commitment and we are able to offer ongoing support. Whilst we recognise that all families may need support from time to time, we understand that sometimes there will be additional support needs that may arise in an adoptive family, which may require more specialist support.

Our practice is informed by the principles of **attachment focused parenting**. We provide a holistic, family focussed approach; supporting and encouraging parents to learn new ways of understanding their child and managing challenging behaviour. We focus on providing support to the family as a unit, working with parents and children where required.

We stress that families **do not** need to be at crisis point before contacting us, and usually the earlier the intervention, the higher the possibility of a positive outcome.

What We Can Help With:

- Information about birth family
- Talking about adoption with your child
- Contact issues, including Social Media
- Support to understand and manage behaviour that may be linked to early trauma
- Helping children understand their story
- Support in building positive family relationships
- Supporting grief & loss through adoption
- Identity issues
- Advice with education & adoption issues

Ways We Can Support You

- Newsletter (bi-yearly)
- Support Groups
- Events (e.g. family fun days)
- Training
- Advice & Information
- Website/Leaflets
- Letterbox Contact



"Don't wait for things to get worse, before asking for support!"



We regularly send out information by post and email. Please make sure we have your up-to-date contact details!



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How Do I Access Support Services?

In some instances, support can be provided by universal services, such as your GP, health visitor, school health nurse, school counsellor or Families First for needs which are not directly related to adoption.

If your need is specific to adoption or if you are unsure if your need is adoption-related, please follow the steps below and we will gladly help you.

1

If you think you may require support from us, the first step is to call the duty Social Worker on **01495 355766** between the hours of **9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday**. You will always speak to an Adoption Social Worker, however not necessarily a member of the Adoption Support team.

During this conversation, we may be able to resolve your issue by providing advice and information, or signposting you to relevant professional bodies who may be best suited to support you.

2

If there isn't a straight forward solution to your query through universal services or advice over the phone from the duty Social Worker, your phone call will be followed up promptly by a member of the Adoption Support Team.

During this conversation, the Adoption Support team member will talk in-depth with you about your situation and explore possible solutions with you.

3

Following this conversation, you may be invited to discuss your needs further with us.

From here we will work with you to begin assessing your needs for support and formulating a tailored support plan for your family, which may include direct work, additional services from SEWAS or referrals to external services, such as Psychology.

Remember... Asking for support is **never** a sign of weakness.



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Extra Information

Here you can find some additional reading materials, information about other professionals and sources of support.

Links

National Adoption Service
www.adopt-cymru.co.uk

Adoption UK
www.adoptionuk.org.uk

Psychological Health Service Information
www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/866/page/74424

Newport Family Support Services Directory
www.newport.gov.uk/familysupport

Monmouthshire Family Information Service
www.monfis.org.uk/family-support-services

Torfaen Family Information Service
www.torfaenfis.org.uk

Caerphilly Family Information Service
www.caerphilly.gov.uk/fis

Blaenau Gwent Family Information Service
<http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/resident/health-wellbeing-social-care/support-for-children-families/family-information-service/>

Getting it right for every child (Adoption UK)
<https://www.adoptionuk.org/sites/default/files/ADk-Wales-Getting-It-Right.pdf>

Support Groups

Regularly attending support groups could be extremely beneficial to you and your family. Some of the benefits of attending a support group are:

- Meet and talk with other adoptive families
- Share and hear the experiences of others
- A safe, structured event without fear of judgement.
- Explore and share parenting strategies/skills
- To build a support network of peers
- Gain information and training from SEWAS.

We send out invitations to our support groups through email and post. Please ensure your contact details are up to date to ensure you don't miss out!

Complaints

Information about Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Complaints, Compliments & Comments Policy are available in both English and Welsh, for further information please visit:

http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/fileadmin/documents/Council/Complaints_and_Compliments/SocServComplaintsEng.pdf



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