

# The Adoption Passport:

a support guide for adopters



## Adoption Support Services

Adoption is a lifelong journey for children and their families. At different times throughout your life, you may face issues or concerns or just need some advice. As well as the guidance you receive during the adoption application and matching process, Northumberland Adoption Service can help you to get the right support, whenever you and your family need it.

In addition to core adoption support you can access:

- ☑ counselling, information and advice for any member of your family
- ☑ help with behavioural, attachment and other issues
- ☑ financial support e.g. to help with additional needs and costs
- ☑ help with contact between an adopted child and their birth family
- ☑ connecting with other adoptive families as this can sometimes be the best form of support
- ☑ training to help adopters to meet the needs of their adoptive child
- ☑ support and assist where a family is at risk of breaking down; including exploring the option of short breaks for an adopted child
- ☑ membership of a mailing list to be kept informed of news, activities, learning and development opportunities
- ☑ services for adopted adults — including access to records
- ☑ support for birth relatives

### Partner Support:

**general health:** the NHS commission health services to meet the needs of adopted children. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence have guidance so that your GP will understand issues you may face.

**psychological support:** the Northumberland Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) offers help with mental and emotional health.

**pac-uk:** the Northumberland adoption support team work with a partner agency [PAC-UK](#) to ensure that you have access to further specialist advice, therapy and events.

**new family social:** the Northumberland Adoption Service are members of [New Family Social](#), the network for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) adoptive and foster families.

## Core Adoption Support and Information

You and your child are entitled to, and may benefit from, the following support and information throughout the adoption process and beyond:

**education:** [priority access](#) to schools which best meets your child's needs

**free early education:** from 2 years old and [help with childcare costs](#)

**pupil premium:** schools can [access additional funding](#) to help them support adopted children

**financial:** [adoption leave](#) and pay is similar to maternity and paternity leave arrangements

**housing:** priority [access to social housing](#). If you are living in council housing, you can also apply for funding so that you are not penalised financially while you have an empty spare room

**child's permanence report:** a source of important information about your child's background and needs. This may also be useful for your child when they are an adult and wish to learn about their life history and heritage

**health:** a summary of your child's health needs from their local authority's medical adviser before they came to live with you

**life-story work:** information about your child's early years

**later life letter:** explains why your child could not live with their birth family

**adoption support services:** includes your right to request an assessment of any support that is required until your child is 18 years old (or 21 years with a disability)

**adoption support fund:** if your child needs therapeutic support, this can help pay for advice and therapy programmes for your child and family

**your adoption support plan:** Following an assessment, your advisor will write a plan that looks at any needs of your child in terms of education, behaviour, emotional wellbeing, birth family contact, general health, how you are coping, resources you have available and how these can be strengthened. The plan is reviewed regularly. Northumberland County Council provide some services and also commission support from partner providers.

**where you can access support:** The local council that places your child with you is responsible for assessing your adoption support needs for three years after the Adoption Order is made. After three years it becomes the responsibility of the local council where you live.

**further advice on adoption support:** you can contact one of the many adoption support organisations, such as Adoption UK [www.adoptionuk.org.uk](http://www.adoptionuk.org.uk) or the Coram BAAF Fostering and Adoption Academy [www.baaf.org.uk](http://www.baaf.org.uk) or access the e learning materials on [www.First4Adoption.org](http://www.First4Adoption.org)

**feedback:** the team are happy to hear your views in our aim to improve our services. More details of submitting a compliment or complaint are online.

**find out more about Northumberland Adoption Support Services:**

**visit our webpage:** <http://adoption.northumberland.gov.uk>

**call:** 01670 62 62 62

**email:** [adoptionsupport@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:adoptionsupport@northumberland.gov.uk)

**write to:** Adoption Support Service, Family Placement Service, 3 Esther Court, Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington, NE63 8AP

