

Adopt London West

Annual Report

1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025



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1. About Adopt London West

Introduction

Context and responsibilities

Legislation requiring local authorities to deliver adoption services through Regional Adoption Agencies was passed in 2016 in the Education & Adoption Act. London RAA's were launched in 2019, around the middle of the national RAA change programme.

Adopt London West (ALW) is a partnership between the four London boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham and Hounslow.

The adoption and special guardianship support functions of the four boroughs were delegated to Adopt London West on 1st October 2019, hosted by the London borough of Ealing as the lead partner. The ALW Partnership Agreement covers the legal and financial terms of the arrangement. There is shared oversight of the RAA through a Partnership Board and Heads of Service Quality Assurance Group.

Adopt London West has responsibility for all adoption and special guardianship support services, delivering these on behalf of the local authorities. These include:

- *The recruitment of prospective adopters*
- *The assessment of prospective adopter's suitability to adopt a child*
- *An adoption panel to consider recommendations on applicants' suitability to adopt and the suitability of adopters to meet the needs of children with a plan of adoption, 'matches' of children.*
- *The provision of adoption and special guardianship support services to children, families and adopted adults living in the region, including.*
- *Independent support to birth parents*
- *Access to adoption records*
- *Letterbox exchange service and support with contact arrangements*

Responsibility for the child remains with the local authority, the following summarises the key responsibilities that are retained.

- *Corporate Parenting*
- *Agency Decision making responsibilities and all legal responsibilities for children looked after.*
- *Early permanence, care and adoption planning*
- *The provision of and review of financial allowances to adopters and special guardians*

In partnership with the RAA, each partner contributes to:

- Quality assurance and performance tracking

- Ensuring that accurate and timely data is held, collated, and reported to the DfE, and any other body as necessary.

Governance arrangements

The ALW Partnership Board meets quarterly and has Director level representation from each of the four partner boroughs. This Board has responsibility for all partnership decisions that need to be made above Head of Service level, for monitoring the performance and budget of ALW.

The Heads of Service group meets monthly and has membership at Head of Service and / or Service Manager level from each partner borough. The purpose of this group is to monitor and improve partnership working across the boroughs and ALW, including making decisions and proposals about practice and procedures that relate to adoption work across the agencies.

Ofsted Inspections

ALW support and participate in the adoption elements of any partner local authority inspection including 'inspecting local authority children's services' (ILACS) and focused inspections looking at permanency or children in care.

In 2024/25, ALW were involved in the ILACS inspection that took place in Ealing in April 2024. Comments made in the Ofsted report were positive about the offer from ALW and the strong partnership working between the Local Authority and ALW.



DfE representatives have indicated to Adoption England that a further thematic inspection of Regional Adoption Agencies is likely to take place in Autumn 2027.

2. ALW Team Structure

Workforce

ALW operates as a shared service, there are currently 32 team members, who work across 4 specialist teams focussed on the different practice areas,

- a small recruitment and assessment team who are responsible for the recruitment, assessment preparation and training of adopters.
- a family finding team who are responsible for early identification of children, family finding and early permanence arrangements

- an adoption and special guardianship support team offer a comprehensive range of services to families, children and adopted adults and manage a large volume of applications to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund on behalf of families who require a therapeutic service.
- a business support team provides a range of services including, management of initial enquiries, data collection, reporting and analysis, financial systems and budget monitoring, co-ordination and administration of Adoption Panel, core administrative services, the business management of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund process including a statutory annual assurance statement

All are employed by Ealing as the host Local Authority with the exception of the 2 Clinical Psychologists(1FTE) who are employed by West London NHS Trust.

ALW is managed by a Head of Service, Team Managers and a Business and Performance Manager. In addition to the core team, sessional social workers undertake some assessments of adopters to provide additional capacity.

A part time marketing and communications lead is part of the Adopt London shared marketing & communications team.

The staff group remains stable, all permanent social work posts are occupied, one 1 year fixed term social work post in the recruitment and assessment team was agreed by the partnership board to provide additional capacity to improve recruitment numbers.

3. Financial Arrangements

Financial arrangements

The Partnership agreement set out the agreed financial contributions for the first 2/3 years of operation. The resources that transferred, both staff costs and non-staff budgets, were based on the existing resources that each borough had allocated to deliver its adoption functions prior to regionalisation.

The financial contribution formula was reviewed and agreed for a period of two years by all partners and implemented in April 2022, the revised formula reflects a demand based budget. A further review of the financial model planned for late 2023 was delayed due to capacity pressures in key finance personnel, this work began in the early part of 2025 and is expected to report to the Board in Autumn 2025.

Financial contributions for 2024/25 are set out in the table below

LA	2024/25 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION
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BRENT	£424,462	20%
EALING	£763,626	35%
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	£348,943	17%
HOUNSLOW	£575,089	28%
TOTAL	£2,112,120	100%

The following paragraphs describe the key areas of financial activity.

Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund

Adopt London West manages all applications from families living in each partner LA to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF) a Department for Education fund for the direct provision of therapeutic support to families. Applications to the fund are made following a Social Work assessment and identification of a therapeutic provider. 363 applications were made to the fund in 2024/25 slightly less than in 2023/24 and total funding claimed also decreased to £741,663.77 from £984,057 last year.

The reduction in applications and funding in 2024/25 is due to a very late decision by Government on the continuation of the fund for 2025/26, applications were effectively suspended from early in the New Year. An announcement was finally made in early April, confirming significant changes to the fund, the Fair Access Limit for applications was reduced from £5,000 to £3,000, in addition, funding for assessments was removed and match funding of applications for complex therapeutic packages also ended.

2024/25	Number of applications	Total
Brent	67	£139,870.22
Ealing	125	£264,790.17
H&F	80	£142,255.30
Hounslow	91	£194,748.08
TOTAL	363	£741,663.77

Interagency placements

Inter-agency placements are purchased when no adopters approved by Adopt London West are available or are not considered to be the most suitable match for a child. 58% of the children placed in 2024/25 were placed with ALW approved adopters, which is an increase from 52% in 2023/24 and 18% in 2022/23.

The cost of Inter Agency placements was **£362,872 compared to £566,810 in 2022/23**. Inter-agency income from ALW families matched with children from other regions was **£149,700**.

Currently each partner local authority is responsible for the payment of inter-agency fees, as part of the financial modelling work planned a review of the current inter-agency payments arrangements will take place with the aim of reaching agreement on an approach that is mutually beneficial and equitable to all partners.

There is a shared commitment across the Adopt London partnership to place London children with London families, maximising the use of all potential families within the partnership provides the best outcome for children and adopters, placing children locally means that, when necessary, high quality, timely support can be arranged. Therefore, increasing the number of children placed with Adopt London adopters across each of the 4 regions remains a priority. 2 of the 13 children placed in Interagency placements in 24/25 were placed with Adopt London families.

Children placed - Interagency & ALW Placements 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025			
LA	ALW	Interagency	Total
Brent	6	4	10
Ealing	2	5	7
H&F	0	0	0
Hounslow	10	4	14
TOTAL	18	13	31

4. Performance

Children

The number of children being placed for Adoption nationally has risen slightly to 3071 from around 3000 in last few years, in London there has been a slight decrease in the number of children placed in 2024/25 to 200 from 212 in 2023/24

31 children were placed by ALW in their new families in 2024/25, an increase of 6 children from 25 placed last year.

The adoption performance targets set two main performance indicators; one directly relates to ALW performance.

- **A2** length of time between a Placement Order and match with an adoptive family, the expected timescale is 121 days.
- The average for ALW was 224 days, outside of the expected timescale but only slightly outside the national average of 218 days, but stronger than the London average of 284 days.

Adoption Orders

Adoption Orders granted	Brent	Ealing	H&F	Hounslow	Total
2023/24	4	4	3	10	21
2024/25	8	1	3	13	25

Of the 31 children placed in 2024/25, 35% are of White ethnicity, 16% are Black, 26% are of Mixed ethnicity, 19% are of any other Asian background and 3% Brazilian include 1 sibling groups of 2 aged between 5 – 7 years.

Of the 31 children placed, 4 were placed under Early Permanence arrangements, this means children were placed with adopters who are also approved as foster carers and often before Court proceedings have concluded, enabling the child to move in with their new family, sometimes months earlier than is usually possible.

Adopters

18 new adoptive families were approved in 2024/25 a reduction on 20 approvals in 2023/24, the reduction was mainly due to staffing pressures, a permanent member of staff left the recruitment and assessment team in October 2024, it took until February 2025 for a new social worker to start. In addition, several families who we had hoped to present to panel for approval before the end of March, needed to take a break due to bereavement or serious medical conditions emerging.



28% of adopters approved in 24/25 are Black, Asian, or mixed ethnicity and 17% are from the LGBT+ community.

Performance indicators for the approval of adopters set the expected length of the assessment process:

- **Stage 1** – should be completed in 60 days, the average time in ALW was **121 days**, in line with the London average of 122 days
- **Stage 2** – should be completed in 121 days, the average time in ALW was **190 days**, slightly outside of the London average of 185 days.

Assessments can take longer than expected for a variety of reasons, in Stage 1 delays are usually due to the completion of statutory checks, medicals and DBS (criminal records) are most likely to be subject to delay. The detailed assessment at Stage 2 can be affected due to the applicant's personal circumstances. National data confirms that all regions struggle to meet the expected timescales for either stage.

5. National Adoption landscape

Adoption England



regional adoption agencies working together

Adoption England oversees the coordinated efforts of the 33 Regional Adoption Agencies in England, focusing on key areas identified in the [Adoption England Strategy](#). The Department for Education provides funding for Adoption England through a centrally funded staff team and grants available to Regional Adoption Agencies collaborating in pan-regional partnerships.

In recent years, the Adopt London partnership has successfully obtained grant funding to support joint practice development across areas including the matching of children with adoptive families, early permanency practice, the Black Adoption Project, and the development of new models for adoption support.

This section of the report highlights key areas of national practice development which are supported by the work of Adoption England. You can read more about the work of Adoption England in their [annual report](#).

Modernisation of contact in adoption

In November 2024, the adoption subgroup of the Public Law Working Group published their final report, '[Recommendations for Best Practice in Respect of Adoption](#)', following an interim report and sector consultation launched in September 2023.

The report makes a range of detailed recommendations about adoption practice and court procedures, particularly in relation to the use of direct contact in adoption. These recommendations have significant implications for local authorities and Regional Adoption Agencies if implemented by courts, however the Department for Education has to date not committed to making any changes to the law or statutory guidance to support the court's agenda.

Research and insights from those with lived experience support the need for adoption plans to more frequently recommend direct contact between adopted children and their birth families, and for this to be more robustly supported on a long-term basis.

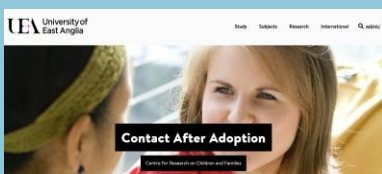
However, due to models of adoption contact being historically based on indirect communication, most Regional Adoption Agencies (including Adopt London West) have not been set up with the capacity to provide the type of contact service that this change in practice would require. Nevertheless, within current resources available, ALW have refocussed the practice in the small 'keeping in touch' service to establish more additional direct contact arrangements for adopted children and their birth families. At the time of writing this report this amounts to more than 100 new arrangements with at least one family member.

Practice highlight

Maintaining relationships: learning from research & lived experience

- ❖ Everyone's experience is unique – there can be no single model for maintaining relationships that fits for every adopted person, and different forms of contact may be best for different children
- ❖ When adopted people do have some kind of contact, it can help them:
 - Understand why they were adopted
 - Provide information about their birth family
 - Reassure them that they have not been forgotten
 - Let them know that their birth family accepts their dual connection to two families
- ❖ Contact needs change over time based on the views of the adopted person and the situation in the birth family – even if it is not right at the beginning, it might be later on
- ❖ Being involved in decisions about contact provides young people with a sense of control over their lives
- ❖ Having safe and supported contact reduces the likelihood of risky unplanned online contact
- ❖ Contact can support adoptive families to feel closer to their adopted child through learning more about their history together
- ❖ Even when contact cannot happen consistently or directly, conversations about contact within the adoptive family support wider discussions which help young people make sense of their story

Learn more about this topic and hear directly from those with lived experience by following these links:



Changes to the Adoption & Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF)

As mentioned earlier in the report, the ASGSF provides access to funding for essential therapeutic support for children living in adoptive and special guardianship families. As the end of 2024/25 approached, there was significant uncertainty about the future of the Fund as the Department for Education delayed making a commitment to the 2025/26 financial year. Early in the 2025/26 financial year an announcement was made by the government that funding allowances for each family would be reduced significantly (from a £5,000 cap to £3,000 cap), with additional restrictions including the end of specific funding for specialist assessments and 'match funding' for particularly complex needs or families at risk of breakdown. The government have also announced a review into the future delivery of the Fund, with no commitment yet made for 2026/27 and beyond.

Significant changes to the ASGSF model will have major implications for the way RAAs deliver adoption support services nationally and is likely to impact the fragile adoption support provider market. In response to this uncertainty RAA leaders came together through Adoption England to publish an '[options appraisal](#)' setting out the views of RAAs on potential alternative models for the Fund. The Department for Education have indicated that further announcements about the Fund may take place in autumn 2025.

'Becoming a Family' framework

Adoption England have led work to develop a national framework to support the early stages of becoming a family through adoption. The framework is designed to provide a consistent level of good practice in early placement support across England and support parents to build confidence and begin to put into practice what they have learnt in their preparation training. The framework is built around five key principles:

- Be preventative and support foundational building blocks of parenting in adoption
- Enable adoptive parents to begin developing confidence as therapeutic parents
- Build resilience through strong social networks and peer support
- Respond to individual needs with access to a wide range of multi-agency services
- Offer consistency in support across England, particularly for families adopting a child from another region.

The framework is currently being piloted until April 2026 before being rolled out to RAAs nationally.

National adopter sufficiency

Over the last 18 months there has been a significant drop in adopter sufficiency across England. Starting in the north of England but spreading across most regions, RAAs and Voluntary Adoption Agencies (VAAs) have seen the impact of economic conditions play a particularly prominent role in preventing people coming forward for adoption, alongside housing difficulties and a broader sense of global insecurity. Adoption England are supporting some regions to pilot various approaches for providing economic support to prospective adoptive parents, with learning to be shared nationally.

In London we have not seen such significant challenges with the recruitment of adopters however, we continue to monitor this closely and observe changes. Even with stable adopter

recruitment locally however, the national picture does impact London RAAs through a shortage of available inter-agency placements for London children.

6. Adopt London

Adopt London structure



Four Regional Adoption Agencies collaborate under the Adopt London umbrella, collectively serving 24 boroughs across all regions of London. Adopt London stands out nationally for its close

partnership among such a large number of local authorities.

This partnership provides a London-wide platform for the recruitment of adoptive parents, enables the delivery of some support services at scale, and allows for sharing and standardisation of practice. Heads of Service, Service Managers, Team Managers, Panel Advisors, and Marketing & Communications leads collaborate with their counterparts throughout Adopt London to develop shared services and establish common practice standards, and Adopt London increasingly provide regular opportunities for practitioners to meet to share practice and specialist knowledge.



Heads of Service and the host borough Directors and Directors of Children's Services meet quarterly as the Adopt London Executive Advisory Board, which oversees the joint project work of Adopt London and considers issues that need the support of other senior leaders to resolve.

The Adopt London Heads of Service work towards a strategic work plan that is supported by the Executive Advisory Board. The plan covers governance and commissioning arrangements; operational and practice development of priority areas including opportunities to access national funding; marketing and communications arrangements; and the voice of adopters, adopted children, adopted adults, and birth family members. A pooled budget is held to fund shared activity.

Some highlights of the joint work across Adopt London in 2024-25 include:

- *Adopt London staff conference*
- *Adult adoptee support*
- *Matching project*
- *Telling children about adoption*
- *Early permanence project*
- *We Are Family peer support*
- *Adopt London choir*
- *Adoption support commissioning*
- *Black Adoption Project*

Adopt London staff conference

Our annual Adopt London Staff Conference was held in February 2025, bringing together 160 staff in an event that helps develop ownership of the partnership working within Adopt London, and gives a chance to learn about new areas of work and visions for the future.

The first half of the conference this year focused on a new research model designed to support decision-making about the placement of global majority children in ‘transracial’



adoptive families. Dr Tam Cane from University of Sussex presented her research to staff with the support of a young person with lived experience of transracial adoption.

During the second half of the conference people with lived experience from the Black Adoption Project updated attendees on new developments and opportunities arising from the project and spoke powerfully from their own lived experience about the changes that are

needed and how staff can be a part of this. We were honoured to be joined for part of the day by Janet Daby MP, Minister for Children & Families, who held a roundtable discussion with Black Adoption Project representatives during the lunch break and gave a speech to the conference stating her commitment to support this work.

At the end of the day staff expressed how inspired they had been by the lived experience speakers and renewed their commitment to supporting these practice areas in their own work.



Practice highlight

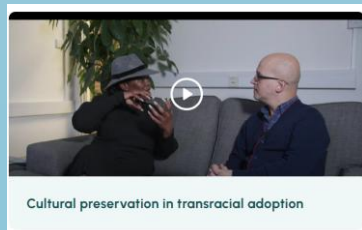
The AFDiT model for decision-making in transracial adoption

- ❖ Supports social work decision making around moving children to placements which do not reflect their heritage or ethnicity
- ❖ Highlights the lived experiences of those who have been transracially adopted
- ❖ Provides firm examples of the types of support transracially adopting parents can offer their children to mitigate the challenges they face
- ❖ Encourages the assessment of both the 'racial and cultural consciousness' and the 'race intentionality' of prospective carers – emphasising that carers need to have a strong commitment to support their child's heritage, as well as a strong understanding and awareness of their likely needs
- ❖ Provides guidance on applying the principles of the model to the decision-making period, during transitions to a new carer, and within the support period after a child has moved.

"Sometimes I hated my skin. I wanted to peel it off... The risk of racialised trauma, as I now know it, really needs to fully be considered." Adoptee, page 52 AFDiT framework

"Don't expect them to be mini 'mes'; let them pursue what they want and who they want to be, even if it means challenging white-dominant environments to let your child fit in." Adoptive parent, page 60 AFDiT framework

Learn more about this topic and hear directly from those with lived experience by following these links:



Adult Adoptee Support

Transracial Adult Adoptee Network

Our peer support group for transracial adoptees offered in partnership with the adoptee-led 'Transracial Adult Adoptee Network' (TAAN) has continued to grow and strengthen, hearing from a range of interesting speakers and building their relationships with one another.

This group is offered to any transracial adoptee willing to travel to London for meetings and has members who regularly travel from other parts of the country to attend, ranging in age from 20s to 70s.

The opportunity to meet in person with other transracially adopted adults often has a profound, life-changing impact on adoptees who attend meetings. This year facilitators from the group led a workshop at the national Adoption England conference, encouraging other Regional Adoption Agencies to initiate their own peer support groups for adult adoptees and sharing their blueprint for doing this in partnership with adopted adults.

Matching Project

The Adopt London matching project, supported by funding from Adoption England, has concluded this year after successful work to increase family finding between Adopt London RAAs and develop regular 'stay and play' events at London Zoo which provide prospective adopters with an opportunity to meet children who have a plan for adoption and their foster carers. The family finding team manager from ALW was seconded to lead the matching project from July 2024 until the project ended in March 2025 due to grant funding ceasing.

The project, also benefited from the expertise of a clinical psychologist, Dr Megan Hollett, who was available to support more complex matching decisions and transitions planning. Social work teams working with many children placed for adoption through all of the Adopt London regions benefited from a clinical consultation model and this additional reflective support, Adopt London now aim to build on this learning to develop an ongoing clinical support offer focused on the transitions and early placement period using additional grant funding to become available in 2025/26.

Practice highlight

The needs of neurodivergent children in adoption transitions

Our clinical psychologist, Dr Megan Hollett, worked with family finding teams and Professor Beth Neil at the University of East Anglia to develop her work on transitions planning for children ([Moving to Adoption](#)) and consider how plans could be adapted for neurodivergent children. She produced a guide which supports practitioners' understanding of the relationship between neurodivergence and trauma, including the impact on the 'window of tolerance' a child may have to manage significant changes and stress – such as during adoption transitions.

Key areas identified for practitioners to focus on providing additional support include:

- Increasing predictability in the transition. This includes the use of visual support such as visual timetables and photographs, and the use of routine, ritual and familiarity to help children feel safe and secure.
- Supporting social interactions for the child such as providing additional 'scaffolding', reducing demands, and allowing for extended introductory periods.
- Supporting regulation including emotional and behavioural presentation but also sensory needs and special interests.

You can find out more about the Moving to Adoption model at this link:



Telling children about adoption

Two family finding social workers in Adopt London North, supported by their team and Dr Megan Hollett, have developed a booklet for children's social workers and foster carers to support the difficult task of talking to children about their care plan of adoption. The booklet talks through the stages of care proceedings and key messages that can be given to children at each stage, with ideas for specific language to use and resources to support this

crucial work. The booklet will be launched in autumn 2025 with a conference for local authority social workers who will become 'champions' in this area.

Early Permanence Project



Also supported by Adoption England funding, the early permanence project has been working towards its planned conclusion in September 2025. Much of the work developed within the project will transition back to RAAs so that these new services continue to be offered into the future.

In the past year the project has:

- Delivered over 20 training courses for practitioners across all London boroughs
- Filmed a new video about the perspectives of birth parents in early permanence
- Worked with stakeholders to develop guidance on supporting final contact meetings between children and their birth parents prior to adoption
- Introduced Paediatric First Aid training for all Adopt London prospective adoptive parents and developed separate safeguarding training for early permanence carers
- Moved to standardise early permanence training for all Adopt London prospective adopters to support an increase in families available to provide these placements (previously the training was only for those who opted into this)
- Introduced the co-delivery of early permanence training by adoptive parents with experience of early permanence
- Developed guidance for practitioners on meeting fostering standards in early permanence placements.

We are Family peer support



We Are Family (WAF) is an independent peer-to-peer support charity that was founded by adoptive parents for adoptive parents.

Adopt London support WAF through an annual grant, to provide formal peer support to adopters along with access to a range of expert resources.

All prospective adopters are encouraged to join WAF which is free to join, during stage 1 of their assessment, and the range of support available increases as they progress through to approval and have their adopted child/ren move in with them.

Currently over 1500 adoptive parents in London are members of We Are Family, 248 of those belong to West London groups

In addition to locality-based support groups and specialist groups for single adopters, early permanence carers, and parents of teens, WAF regularly support family meet ups, summer picnics, and access to London-based cultural events. This year WAF delivered 63 events in Adopt London areas including 27 parent support meet-ups, 13 playgroups, and 15 family meet-ups.

In partnership with Adopt London, We Are Family also provide a range of accessible digital support through 'WAF Talks', a programme which has now delivered over 100 webinars available for adoptive parents to join live or watch back on demand, and through 'Adoption Shared', a specialist podcast designed to deepen understanding of the lived experience of adoption.

"I felt very alone dealing with the challenges of adopting children that experienced so much trauma, meeting experienced adopters gave me more confidence and helped me feel I was not a rubbish parent. The support provided by other adopters was inspiring."
We Are Family member

"I was lucky that I found We Are Family early into our placement, my husband & I were struggling with no family or support close by and being part of We Are Family changed that. I don't believe we would have the relationship with our children that we have now if it were not for the help, support and understanding that other WAF members gave to me."
We Are Family member

83% OF MEMBERS AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE THAT SINCE JOINING WAF, THEY HAVE ACCESS TO MORE RESOURCES, INFORMATION AND SUPPORT TO MANAGE THE CHALLENGES OF ADOPTIVE PARENTING.



Adopt London Choir

Adopt London's choir, established in response to the pandemic in 2020, has continued to thrive, providing an accessible and fun way to build social connections between adoptive

families. Families meet weekly online to learn specially selected songs and have occasional social meet-ups or performances in person.

"I have been happier due to the love of singing and having something to look forward to, and bond with my son more as we listen and sing songs together, it has helped me with my emotions and self-doubt."

Adoption Support Commissioning

Following background work and the development of a regional needs assessment for London completed in June 2024, Adopt London have received further funds from Adoption England to develop our capacity to undertake joint commissioning, and to test out the provision of an Adopt London clinical hub to bring some commissioned services in-house. As well as testing out potential clinical models in 2025/26, we plan to train Adopt London staff to deliver some of our own specialist therapeutic parenting programmes, as part of a long term goal to increase access to these programmes and reduce reliance on commissioning from external providers.

Black Adoption Project

The Black Adoption Project is delivered by Adopt London in partnership with Laurelle Brown Training and Consultancy, aiming to reduce long-standing disparities for Black and mixed Black heritage children in our adoption system. It is a long-term project focused on creating change across all aspects of the adoption system to better meet the needs of Black prospective adopters, families, and children.



- Black children who have a plan for adoption agreed by the court are around 20% less likely than other children to go on to be adopted, often because suitable adoptive families cannot be identified.
- Black children who are adopted wait an average of 6 ½ to 8 months longer than other children to move into their adoptive family.
- Black prospective adopters are 5 – 6 times more likely to drop out during the adoption assessment process and not go on to adopt a child.



The project was awarded Adoption England grant funding in 2024/25 to help mobilise a range of pilot projects developed in response to our [phase 1 research](#), and in partnership with those with lived experience of Black adoption. We highlight progress with some of these pilot projects in this section of the report.

A key project principle is to support wider change through dissemination of learning, and therefore regular webinars are being held and are available after the event to [watch on demand](#).

The work of the project is supported by a Steering Committee made of up those with personal and professional experience of Black adoption, co-chaired by an adopted person and children's services Directors. An Adoptive Parents Stakeholder Group and Research & Evaluation Advisory Group provide additional insight, challenge, and support.



'Some members of the Black Adoption Project Steering Committee'.

Many of those with lived experience of adoption have spoken at national events this year on behalf of the Black Adoption Project, including presentations to the Department for Education, Adoption England's national conference, and Children & Young People Now conference.



You can find out more about the background to the Black Adoption Project [at this link](#), or sign up to receive regular updates [at this link](#).

Improving support for Black prospective adopters



One of the pilots launched this year is co-designed with Black adoptive parents to improve the support and advocacy available for Black prospective adopters (including racially diverse couples) during the assessment process. The pilot aims to reduce some of the additional barriers Black households may face coming into the adoption process and increase the

proportion who complete the assessment and go on to adopt a child.

Following the design process a support group called 'Let's Talk About Adoption' was launched, run directly by adoptive parents. The group aims to provide a space away from professionals where prospective adopters can ask questions, access support to escalate issues within the RAA if needed and meet role models who reflect their own racial heritage.

The support available from the group also provides an additional incentive for Black families considering adoption to choose Adopt London as their agency. Positive feedback has already been received by those accessing the group and its importance recognised in Prospective Adopter Report assessments and at approval panel meetings. The impact is being independently evaluated by a research partner.

Supporting Black adopted children & young people

Black and mixed Black heritage adopted children who participated in our theory of change process identified several key areas where the Black Adoption Project could help to improve their wellbeing. These included opportunities to socialise with other Black adopted young people, and support to better understand their Black identity and Black history within the context of their adoption.

In response to these messages and through a co-design process for young people, a social group was launched in spring 2025. Meeting in a youth centre on a Saturday, the group aims to provide young people with an opportunity to build friendships with other Black adopted young people and provide creative ways for them to share their views and experiences with others. Although not the initial motivation for the group, it also provides an opportunity for parents to meet, network, and provide mutual support - including white parents who have transracially adopted.

Further to the successful launch of the social group, a second pilot has been developed for launch in autumn 2025 aimed specifically at older young people called 'Exploring my Black Identity'. This is a 16 week programme run by an experienced Black history youth worker and a therapist, designed to support young people to learn and reflect on Black UK and global history and Black identities within an adoption context. Topics identified with the young people will include music and pop culture; hair, style, and self-expression; Black British and global history; resistance, joy & pride; and Black adoption. The therapist will support the young people to integrate emotional regulation practices and will provide 1:1 reflection points within the programme. Young people will be encouraged to keep a reflective

journal and use photography to highlight their insights, both of which will contribute to an evaluation being undertaken by our research partner.

Specific information & advice to Black prospective adopters



Through the Black Adoption Project, Adopt London have started to offer specific sessions for Black and mixed Black heritage families considering adoption. Run in a similar format to our regular 'Meet the Adopter' events, these provide an opportunity for households to hear from a panel of Black adoptive parents and be provided with information about the additional support available through the Black Adoption Project, including the offer of 1:1 discussions with an experienced Black adoptive parent for anyone considering adoption. These events give us an opportunity to target our advertising specifically at Black households, including through social media and personal connections. We will continue to run these sessions through 2025/26 in different formats to evaluate the most effective model and impact on adopter recruitment.

Adopt London brand



Our single Adopt London presence on the web continues to maximise opportunities for anyone considering adoption in London to easily find us. We have a shared recruitment and communications strategy which focuses on recognising and championing the diversity of the London region and the needs of London children. Our online presence is spearheaded by the Adopt London [website](#) which provides rich information for people considering adoption in a range of formats, from [frequently asked questions](#) to [lived experience case studies](#) and relevant [news items](#).

This year we have undertaken a significant move to a new website hosting partner who is more able to support our future planned developments. The website has been updated to provide a clearer pathway for other groups seeking information from Adopt London, such as adoptive parents and adopted adults, and we have completed work ensuring the website is accessible.

Website metrics are tracked to support our work in targeting recruitment and to ensure those who need to access support can do this. Adopt London website page views remain very high, with a total of 103,245 page views in 2024/25. However, there was a drop this year from the previous two years which may reflect [national trends](#) around a reduction in adopter recruitment but may also in part be attributed to the website hosting changes made this year. Website data will be monitored through 2025/26 to gain a better understanding of these changes.

Are you...



Wanting to adopt?

Start your journey

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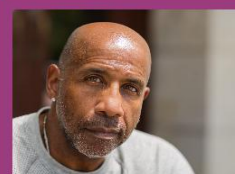

An adoptive family

Supporting our adopters

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A birth family member

Support & signposting

[READ MORE](#)


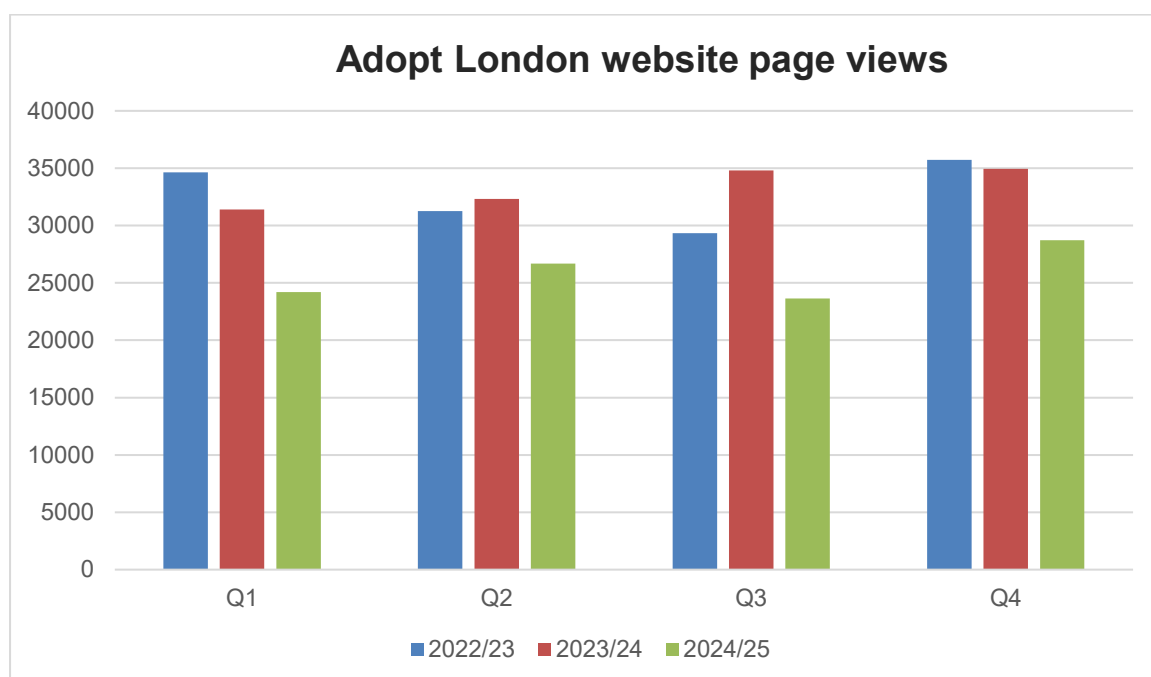
An adopted adult

Support for adopted adults

[READ MORE](#)

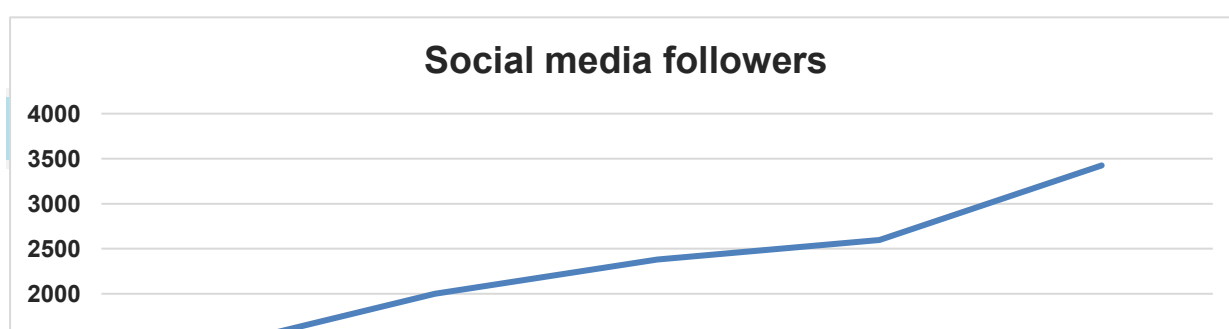

The Adopt London social media channels post regularly to communicate and inform a range of audiences impacted by adoption. Our social media followers continue to organically increase and using these channels can be an effective way to engage and support people in London who are considering adoption but not yet ready to begin an assessment.

Year	Social media followers
2020/21	1400
2021/22	2000
2022/23	2380
2023/24	2596
2024/25	3425



Adopt London website page views			
Qtr	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Q1	34628	31396	24210
Q2	31260	32316	26690
Q3	29343	34806	23628
Q4	35722	34957	28717

The Adopt London social media channels post regularly to communicate and inform a range of audiences impacted by adoption. Our social media followers continue to organically increase and using these channels can be an effective way to engage people in London who are considering adoption but not yet ready to begin an assessment. This year has seen a significant increase in follower numbers due to the introduction of new [Black Adoption Project](#) channels on Instagram and LinkedIn.



Partnerships with Voluntary adoption agencies and Adoption Support Agencies



PAC-UK



ALW commissions a service from PAC UK which includes:

- An advice line, supporting adopted adults and birth parents'
- Counselling services for anyone affected by Adoption

or Special Guardianship arrangements living in any of the 4 partner boroughs.



ALW commissions international assessment work from the Inter Country Adoption Centre, (IAC) this is mainly used by people wishing to adopt a child from their own country of origin or another overseas country.

Partnerships between Adopt London and the Voluntary Adoption Agencies (VAA's) operating across London are positive and productive, a quarterly meeting takes place to share practice and service developments.



A feature of this collaboration is an ongoing programme of Lunch and Learn sessions facilitated by PACT a Voluntary Adoption agency operating in London, funding is shared by the 5 London RAA's. Up to 100 adoption social workers have attended each

event on a range of adoption related subjects, this provides an opportunity for all adoption social workers from across the sector to come together, build networks and enhance their learning and development.

ALW Practice and support services

The social workers, managers, and all support workers in ALW strive to deliver a therapeutically informed, reflective, and respectful service to all children, families, prospective adopters, our partners and all who are affected by adoption and special guardianship arrangements. Social workers are trained in Dyadic Developmental Practice which underpins the practice model in ALW.

Training & support to Local Authority partners continues to be a priority, lunch and learn events take place regularly on a series of core topics including

- Meaningful Child Permanence reports
- Early Permanence
- Transitions in Adoption
- Supporting Children's Identities through Life Story work
- Keeping in Touch

ALW team members also attend staff forums in each partner Local Authority when invited to maintain connections between the services and build new connections when staff changes occur.

Keeping in Touch

As mentioned earlier, ALW have maintained a focus on developing practice relating to maintaining relationships for children as part of the so called modernising adoption agenda. It is now widely recognised that if children maintain some level of relationship with their birth or 'first' families it contributes to a stronger, more positive sense of identity for adopted children. They grow up with a better sense of who they are and why they could not remain in their original families. Whilst there is much work still to do, a message that modern adoption means more openness, honesty and transparency is delivered right from the beginning of the adoption journey which for most prospective adopters begins at an Information session.

As a result of a continued focus on keeping in touch arrangements, overall numbers continue to grow, indirect keeping in touch/ letter exchanges have increased by a smaller proportion as more direct arrangements are agreed, nevertheless there are now 540 indirect arrangements from 489 in 2023/23. Direct keeping in touch arrangements have increased from 56 in 2022/23 to 123 2023/24, and 162 in 2024/25. An increase of 31% in a year and 189% from the 46 arrangements in 2022/23. This work is hugely rewarding for the staff team as they have facilitated a number of very moving reconnections of children with their birth siblings, grandparents and parents.

Special Guardianship Support



Special Guardianship support is a unique feature of ALW, the other 3 Adopt London regions do not offer support to families living within special guardianship arrangements. ALW commission a service from Kinship, a national charity (formerly known as Grandparents Plus) the service offers membership to all families living in any of the 4 ALW partner authorities who are caring for a child in a kinship arrangement regardless of the legal status of the arrangement.

In addition, a more specialist level of service is also included in the contract that offers direct more intense support for up to 60 families a year. During this reporting year 56 families benefitted from the service.

Brent – 10

Ealing – 26

Hammersmith & Fulham – 6

Hounslow - 14

Team Managers from each partner LA meet regularly with ALW managers to ensure that the service is supporting the most vulnerable families.

Group work

ALW offer a range of group work as part of ALW's support offer to families, one of the groups is an **Education Support group**, facilitated by an Educational Psychologist and ALW social worker, the group meets once every half term. The following topics were covered throughout the year

May 2024 – Supporting transitions big and small and selecting a new school

June 2024 – Supporting children with anxiety around school

Oct 2024 – Home/School partnerships – how to work well with your school

Nov 2024 - Helping your school to be more trauma-aware

January 2025 – Understanding Special Educational Needs and Education, Health & Care Plans

March 2025 – Your child's friendships

Parents and carers tell us that the group is a helpful forum to understand how to meet their children's educational needs and get the best out of school, as well as meeting people and learning from their experiences. Those who attend have expressed that they find the sessions greatly beneficial, and parents of siblings may attend the same topic twice. We also have adopters who may have moved out of our support area that choose to continue attending, attendees this year, families from.

Brent = 11

Ealing = 34

H&F = 8

Hounslow = 15

Feedback:

- Thank you, this session has been helpful and interesting, great advice from the group
- Thank you, I found this session really helpful.
- It really helpful and good to think back about what we've achieved and how there is support available all of the time
- Informative session, good reflective space
- Thanks for the session. Always good to find out new techniques
- Reassuring - I knew quite a lot of this stuff, but helpful to know I'm not alone and I'm on the right track!
- an eye opener, very useful and informative, so glad i came

Feedback is excellent, families report increased confidence in working in partnership with schools to identify supports to their child.

Special Guardianship support group – a monthly group is co facilitated by a Special Guardian and ALW social worker, this is both a social group but also invited speakers attend to discuss items of interest to the group

Drama group for young people – the during the Easter holiday break, 9 young people took part in a 4 day drama workshop facilitated by ALW Social Workers and an independent drama therapist, funded by the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund. The workshop was open to 11-13 years old young people in both Special Guardianship and adoptive families.

The 9 young people, aged 11-13 years of age, started the week looking at setting the scene, building characters and roles, and creating stories, progressing to directing. The children worked together, supporting each other to bring one of their stories to life. All of the children attended all of the 4 days and established friendships, parents commented that they would support their children to nurture these new friendships.

In February 2025, a **Children's consultation event** took place at the Natural History Museum, three children attended this event. The feedback on the day was:

- The three children who attended provided positive feedback on the activities that they were offered by ALW. All had attended the Drama Group which they said they enjoyed and would like to do again.
- The three young people said that they would like more activities offered by ALW.
- The activities proposed by the staff of the Natural History Museum were particularly popular with all the children who attended.

Foundations for Attachment therapeutic parenting courses 2024/25:

ALW have run 4 Foundations for Attachment courses in 2024/25, the courses are jointly facilitated by a Clinical Psychologist and a social worker, the course is an evidence-based Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) informed programme, based on the DDP practice model developed by Dan Hughes (2009, 2011). The aim is to provide carers/parents with an opportunity to hear ideas, learn new strategies and to meet other parents and carers who may be struggling to understand their child's behaviour the facilitators aim to provide a safe sharing environment and help the carers/parents become more confident in getting to know their child's inner world, explore therapeutic parenting strategies and techniques, feedback is consistently positive.

7. Clinical Psychology in ALW

The clinical psychology offer embeds two NHS employed clinical psychologists (equivalent to 1.0 WTE) alongside Adopt London West's social care services providing support to adoptive and special guardianship families in Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham and Hounslow.

This is a Tier 2 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS); the service offers a range of provision to both social work staff and adopted/special guardianship families. The practice model for Clinical Psychology is based on a consultation model, clinical formulations help inform the most appropriate social work and clinical support offer to families. Due to maternity leave there has been a significantly reduced service in 2024/25, clinical psychology remains an important priority in ALW, it is hoped that services will resume in 2025/26.

8. Adoption Panel

The ALW Adoption panel hears recommendations on.

- *Proposed matches of children with prospective adopters*
- *Adoption as a suitable care plan for children whose parent/s have consented to adoption (formerly referred to as relinquished babies)*
- *Suitability of prospective adopters to be approved*
- *Reviews of adopters and recommendations to rescind approval.*

16 ALW Panel meetings took place from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, running every 3 weeks, ensuring that decisions are made in a timely and effective manner.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, 31 children were placed in their new families, but the Panel made positive matching recommendation on behalf of 40 children. Out of those 40 matches presented to the Panel, 19 were made with ALW approved families and 21 with families approved by other RAAs/VAAAs. The Panel also made a recommendation on the adoption plan for 1 Hounslow child.

NB – matches and placements of children can happen in different years, 40 children were placed during the year, but some may have been matched in the previous year, and some children were placed in Early Permanence arrangements, so the numbers may not correlate.

The Panel has considered the suitability of 18 families to adopt. All Prospective Adopter Reports (PARs) presented to panel have had a unanimous positive recommendation from panel and are deemed good to excellent reports and this evidences the excellent work that the ALW recruitment team complete to ensure thorough and evidence-based assessments. -
- Alongside the above 18 approvals, the Panel was asked to consider 3 resignations due to change of personal circumstances and disengagement with the process.

Panel Training requirement: (National Minimum Standards: 23.13, 23.14, 23.15 and 23.16)

It is a requirement that Adoption Panel's hold a minimum of one training event per year to contribute to the professional development of the panel and its individual members. Training may take the form of formal training or a facilitated professional discussion. the following took place in this reporting year.

22/04/2024 -- Honesty in Adoption and the role of the Panel – discussion about the importance of transparency and honesty in adoptive families and life story work when considering the children's previous experiences of loss and trauma and offered a reflective space for Panel members to consider this.

Keeping in touch – discussion around the importance of maintaining family relationships with significant others for a child who has already experienced loss and trauma and the impact of this on their self-esteem and secure identity.

11/11/2024 – Positive Identity – Presentation and consideration of the AFDIT framework, developed by Dr. Tam Cane, University of Sussex and a process of cocreation with adoptees. Further reflection about this learning took place on 24/02/2025.

Future training topics being planned – ALW is working with the other 3 Panels across the Adopt London network to bring resources together and run a series of wider training event/conference with various speakers on adoption-related topics.

Practice Groups – in addition to the training events, the panel adviser attends a working group with the other 3 Adopt London RAAs' panel advisers and an Adopt London Head of Service. This group meets 6-weekly to discuss any practice dilemmas, exchange good practice ideas and focus on developing practice across Adopt London.

The Chair and Adviser take part in the CoramBAAF national Practice Forum, considering new research, case and literature reviews and focusing on good practice ideas.

Any issues which have arisen in the functioning of the Panel, or the adoption service have always been successfully resolved because of the effective working relationship that exists between the Panel and the Regional Adoption Agency. The quarterly meetings between the Panel Chair, the Panel Vice Chair, the Panel Adviser, the Adoption Team Managers, and the ALW Head of Service are productive in progressing development, change and improvement in the work of an adoption agency. The observation of Panel by the RAA ADM and the local authority ADMs is welcomed, and the feedback given has always immediately been considered and put in place, as necessary.



Feedback to the Panel -- Following each panel meeting, the Adviser would send feedback forms to all those who attended the Panel meeting and the professionals involved. The Panel also submits its feedback to the Head of Service and managers, any feedback to the panel is considered at the next Panel meeting to ensure that there is quality assurance both ways. The overall feedback from attendees is very positive:

- *The kindness and openness of the panel members, the preparation with our social worker, the quality of the discussions during the panel and the clarity of the explanations before and during the panel all contributed to a positive experience.*
- *As a professional, I found it really helpful to meet with the panel advisor beforehand and this isn't something we do at our panel. I found the chair and all the panel members really welcoming. I thought it was really helpful for my adopter to receive the questions in advance and have the option to submit some written answers. It was a very positive panel experience.*
- *The level of transparency was helpful. The panel explained their rationale for their decision.*
- *It was a fantastic experience - I appreciated how kind the panel members were and their efforts to put me at ease. I liked that each panel member provided reasons for recommending the match and also hearing from the family finding social worker about why.*
- *A lot of information was gathered up front making the actual time spent with panel feel more appropriate to the end goal which is to create a family unit and move forward together.*
- *The friendly smiles and the diversity of the panel members.*
- *The meeting with the Adviser was very helpful, she was friendly and reassuring.*
- *Felt very natural and we enjoyed contributing. What made it positive were the people! Lovely group who made us feel very welcome.*
- *Professional, but friendly, with clear questions and recommendation.*
- *Everyone's views were heard and strengths acknowledged throughout discussions*
- *The Panel Advisor gave us the information needed so we were prepared for Panel. The meeting was organised and well presented. They were clear and honest with the questions and answers.*
- *The Panel advisor is very helpful in the lead up to ensuring all things are in order and to offer alternative thoughts on areas that could be raised.*
- *I was put at ease by the chair and everyone present. The chair gave me the opportunity to ask any questions. That panel were understanding patient with me. The panel were extremely kind. I felt well informed and it was great to touch base with the adviser in advance of the meeting. . And we appreciated the preview questions in advance. The panel members were all very sincere and it was clear they had read the report thoroughly. It felt very validating and authentic, everyone clearly cared about S and her future.*
- *We were prepped in advance both by our social worker and the panel advisor thoroughly. Every single person in the meeting made us feel at ease.*
 - *The members were mindful of diversity.*

9. Priorities for 2025/26

- *Increase the opportunities for those with lived experience to influence the practice in ALW. A series of consultation discussions with children, birth parents and adopters will take place in 2025/26. A pilot friendship group for adopted children is planned to take place in the school holidays to see if this is something that children want to engage in.*
- *Continue to progress the aims and objectives of the Black Adoption Project, including supporting the pilot projects to improve services to Black children and prospective adopters*
- *Adoption England have confirmed grant funding is available to explore the potential of establishing multi-disciplinary teams. ALW will lead on the development of a clinical hub across the Adopt London partnership.*
- *Secure additional Adoption England grant funding to further develop adoption support services on a pan -regional basis with a focus on a core offer of support that spans children's developmental ages and stages*
- *Increase engagement of a wider group of ALW staff with Adoption England focus groups and other practice improvement activities to ensure they are involved and connected to national developments*
- *Complete financial modelling review in partnership with all ALW member Local Authorities to ensure ALW remains financially viable and represents value for money for each partner.*

10. Feedback

Recruitment and Assessment team Social Worker: Finally thank you so much for all your support throughout this process. I think you know that part of the reason we even went with West London Adopt was because we liked you so much when we first met you and I can't think of a more sensitive, sensible and supportive social worker to have walked with us through this past year. I do hope we can stay in touch.

Hope you are well. Just wanted to give some feedback about G from our side. She has been the most incredible social worker - she is friendly, kind, supportive and exceptionally efficient. She has guided us and been there for us from the start of our journey with S. She has also answered all our questions and made us feel comfortable with the adoption process.

On top of the above, G has also really helped me navigate a difficult time when my dad passed away by coming up with practical solutions to make sure things work at our end and that S receives the best care and support too.

G is fantastic and we can't speak highly enough of her.

Thanks,

I thought it was very informative. As I am in the situation of adoption the information was relatable and easy to understand. I think as one person said it would be great to have it written down what exactly is the processes and also what is the children's social worker vs ALW role. I found it helpful knowing how valuable the CPR is to your service because for us social workers it is bane of our existence that we just want to get done 😊 But I suppose without a quality one, it makes your jobs harder and it's not fair to our families/ children we work with. I also realise I need to include more positive attributes of the family as it definitely can feel all doom and gloom reading.

Drama group -- Also although it's a little late, I haven't forgotten and wanted to congratulate you and team for such a successful and excellent Easter holiday camp. D looked forward to every day with great excitement, (that was really refreshing to witness) and her mood has been much lighter since attending! And she wants to say. "You put so much hard work into it and your hard work paid off!, my favourite part was playing with new friends, spending time with you and seeing you dance 😊 Thank you for inviting me to your club and can I come again soon? 😊"

I just wanted to say thank you for sending me examples of using “Pupil Passports.” I have used this principle for all of S’s learning needs. All I do is send a copy of his current “Pupil Passport” (see attached) along with other supporting documents to the relevant teachers (when applicable/relevant). This has saved me so much time and anxiety in having to explain S’s learning challenges. A positive example of this is. S has group swimming class and recently I have booked him to also have 1:1 session to help him move up to the next level. S’s swimming teacher was so grateful for the information and I could see how his approach to teaching S helped S and the teacher produce a positive and productive learning outcome for both S and his teacher. As you know, S and R developed a friendship after meeting at the Drama Therapy Workshop organised by your team earlier this year. Myself and R’s mum have made contact and have pencilled some playdates. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you so much for all your help.

FFA -- there is not enough words to describe how essential this training is for everybody who is going through adoption. It gives reassurance, encouragement to follow the PACE guidelines for parenting, tools to have a better understanding and build unconditionally loving relationship with children, partner, parents. Thank you all so much for the opportunity to be part of this valuable experience.

FFA -- A HUGE thank you to you both, I’ve learnt so much over the last 6 weeks, and feel that I’m now much better equipped to handle the challenges that parenting an adopted child may throw my way. I’m already seeing positive changes in how my children and I relate to each other. Thank you for always providing a space & welcoming space for us to share our thoughts, and for giving us a brilliant toolkit to be better allies for our children. This course has been time very well spent!

After struggling for years trying to get help and support with getting the girls assessed and diagnosed to no avail, in comes S who I felt really listened to me and actually heard me and then got things moving S immediately found me and my family therapy and counselling sessions, particularly the wonderful therapist. S also attended the monthly Children in Need meetings set up by the social worker where she helped to advocate and speed up the assessment and diagnosis for one of my girls with CAMHS. I and my family have been through a very stressful time, and S was there for us every step of the way, if she wasn’t able to help us with a particular issue we would be having, she would quickly find someone who can. The invaluable advice she has given me, particularly during a very stressful period this year has really helped us and made such a great and important difference to me and my family’s wellbeing. I just wanted you to know how lucky you are to have S in your service, and how thankful we and other families are to have her in our corner working with us and representing us. Thank you.

It's been a positive experience

It was very helpful. There were lots of practical advice.

Very positive. Great to connect with fellow adopters who understand some of what I'm experiencing. Good to have the varied experiences of the facilitators given their various roles within the team.

I've had a positive experience of the course, very glad we got to go.

I have found the whole experience really helpful and informative. I have enjoyed the webinars, the sessions and the videos. lots of information to take on board and understanding from others going through similar things as us.

Very enjoyable indeed. I am so glad I attended. Speaking with other adopters and hearing of their own experiences was quite comforting in a very strange way.

Overall a good experience, but I would have liked to see more content in addition to the webinars during the live sessions. Breakout rooms were a bit too repetitive. I think the live sessions could be a bit shorter.

I enjoyed the course as the sessions were a safe zone where we could share our experiences and struggles with other adopters and professionals who did their best to provide a constructive feedback and concrete examples we could use in our day to day parenting. I really enjoyed the course and I was looking forward to it every Thursday.

EDUCATION SUPPORT GROUP: The idea to ask a previous teacher to send a postcard once the child has moved onto a new school was a lovely idea! A great way to help the child know they are still being thought about and not been forgotten.

Thank you there have been some amazing tips that have made me feel like I can be better prepared to support L transition to high school in a positive way

I've just recently got a diagnosis of autism & adhd for my 10 year old daughter, one of which I would not have had without P's help & persistence in trying to help us. It's been 4 years or so that I've been looking for answers and not knowing where to turn. She has helped us so so much and I am so grateful that we did find her. B has had a long road to get to where we are now, great ormond street gave us the diagnosis this month & I just wanted to tell you that we will be eternally grateful for all the help that we have been given by P & from what the doctor told me at great ormond street she has helped other families as much as she has helped us .. she is amazing

Debbie Gabriel

Head of Service

September 2025