

Adopt London East Adoption Support Team

About Adopt London East

Adopt London East (ALE) is a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) providing a service to four London boroughs: Havering, Barking and Dagenham, Newham and Tower Hamlets.

This leaflet will provide information to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Early Help workers and provides information about the role of adoption support within ALE. Adoption support social workers in ALE work closely with adopters, adopted adults and birth families. Children are at the heart of our work and our contact with them is generally through their adoptive parents. Adoption support is part of every local authority's statutory obligation. However, ALE's service is provided voluntarily when requested by an adoptive family. They can select whether they want our involvement or not.

What We Do

At ALE we understand that many adopted children can face challenges as a result of early life experiences and sometimes, children, their families, schools and all those around them need help and support to understand and meet those challenges.

The Adoption Support Team provides advice and support to adoptive families, adopted adults, birth families, friends and relatives, schools, professionals and organisations. We work closely with adoptive families to identify the best support for them at their point of need at whatever age or stage and encouraging positive bonds between parents and children.

ALE's Adoption support social workers are all adoption experienced and trained in a variety of therapeutic approaches and have specialist skills and experience of working with adopted children and their families. The Adoption Support Team provides a short term intervention in the form of assessment, advice or signposting.



01708 434844



AdoptLondonEast@haverling.gov.uk

One outcome of an Adoption Support Needs Assessment could be an application to the Adoption Support Fund for therapy. At ALE we have a designated Adoption Support Fund Coordinator who is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the therapy.

Adopt London East Provide

- Experienced and professional adoption workers who can offer support and advice
- Guidance, advice and support to individuals and families who request support for their children, themselves, or their families
- The Advice Line is available to adoptive families and professionals every Tuesday morning from 9.30 to 13.00 on 01708 434844 for a consultation with an adoption support social worker
- Adoption Support Needs Assessments, with time limited support plans which may include a period of social work or therapeutic support
- Regular events allowing adopted children and their families to meet each other
- Support group for adopted tweens/teens
- Support groups for parents
- Training events for parents
- Signposting to other organisations who can offer support.
- Advice and support to children and families struggling with issues such as behavioural difficulties, child to parent violence, gang involvement, mental health difficulties, substance misuse, etc.
- Liaising with other professionals including education, health, social services etc. to provide adoption advice or to coordinate support when there are lots of professionals involved with a family.

Adopt London East Do Not Provide

- ALE is a non-statutory service. We do not have a child protection role. We will always encourage families to self-refer to MASH or we will refer to MASH on their behalf if we feel there are safeguarding concerns.
- We can work in partnership with an allocated social worker but we would not take on the lead role. Our involvement is as a result of a voluntary request by adoptive families for support.
- Currently we do not provide respite or arrange respite placements for adopters. We do not have access to mentors or other independent therapeutic provision other than what the Adoption Support Fund provides.
- We can recommend the provision of an adoption allowance, but the decision to award this is made by the residing or placing Local Authority.

Contact Details

Advice Line: Tuesday morning from 9.30 to 13.00 Call: 01708 434844

Duty: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9.00 to 13.00 Email: ASduty@haverling.gov.uk

