

Adopt London East Adoption Support Team and Family Connections Service

Adoption support for adopted young adults 18 -25 years

About Adopt London East

Adopt London East Adoption Support Team and Family Connections Service provides a service to the London Boroughs of Havering, Barking and Dagenham, Tower Hamlets, and Newham. Our team of experienced adoption support specialist workers work closely with adopted young adults providing information, advice and support.

Once an adopted young person turns 18 years old, the law considers them to be an adult and gives them certain rights under the Adoption Act 2002. This results in changes with regards how we support adopted young adults.

ALE has a responsibility to:

- Provide information for adopted young people turning 18 about how they can access information, including adoption records and providing information and advice about how to trace birth family members
- Support with accessing records, and birth records counselling
- Assessment of adoption support needs and identifying relevant services to meet these needs
- Apply to the Adoption Support Fund for specialist therapeutic services.
- To help facilitate transition to adult services where appropriate
- To make arrangements to secure counselling when requested



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AdoptLondonEast@haverling.gov.uk

Access to the Adoption Support Fund (ASF)

The ASF is available for young people up to and including the age of 21, or 25 for young people with an education, health and care (EHC) plan. Following an assessment a social worker can apply to the ASF for funding for therapy or a specialist assessment. You can find out more about the ASF on the AdoptionUK website

(<https://www.adoptionuk.org/pages/faqs/category/adoption-support-fund>)



Organisations we work in partnership with - PAC-UK

PAC-UK is an independent adoption support agency for anyone affected by adoption. They offer an Advice Line and a range of services for young adopted adults.

Telephone: 020 7284 0555

Advice Line: 0207 284 5879 (10:00am – 1.00pm Mon to Fri or 5:30pm – 7.30pm Thurs).

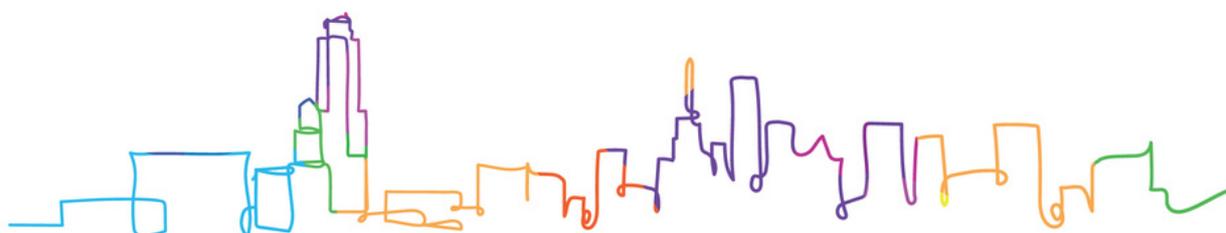
Website: www.pac-uk.org

Adopt London East Family Connections Service

Our Family Connections Service support ongoing relationships between adopted young people who were adopted from one of our East London Boroughs and their birth family up until a young person's 26th birthday.

When children are adopted, most children continue to have some form of relationship with their birth families. There are many benefits for an adopted child to remain in contact with their birth family. Having regular information such as letters and cards or meeting up and spending time with their birth family can help a child with their identity, build their self-esteem and support them to know that they are loved by everyone who is or has been in their lives. An ongoing relationship enables a child to maintain links with birth relatives, providing reassurance about how birth relatives are getting on and that their birth families still care about them.

If an adopted young person is known to the Family Connections Service and there is active contact with their birth family, then ALE will offer a review when a young person turns 17 years old. This would include their adoptive parent(s) and the young person. Thereafter there would be an annual review up until an adopted young person's 26th birthday. The review would only include an adoptive parent with the young adults' consent after the young adult turns 18 (or 21 if they have an EHCP).



What Information can an adopted person get at 18?

When adopted young people turn 18, they have a right to access their care and adoption records held by the placing agency, which will include details of their birth family, family background and circumstances leading to being adopted.

If an Adoption order was granted in England before 30 December 2005 and you want to access your adoption file, you will need to contact the Adoption Support Team in the local area where you reside to seek support to make this request. They will request for your files from the agency that was involved in your adoption.

If you do not know which agency you were adopted through, your local adoption support team can try and find out where it is and apply for the file on your behalf.

If the Adoption Order was granted in England on or after 30th December 2005, a young adopted adult is entitled to request the information from the Local Authority they were adopted from, that was shared with their adoptive family at the time of their adoption. This may include their Life Story Book, their Later in Life letter, and Child Permanence Report (CPR). A CPR is the report that provides information about the birth history as well as the wider family history and the reason for a child to be placed in the care of the Local Authority.

In order to receive these documents, an adopted young adult must show some form of identification, such as a passport, driving licence, or bank statement to verify their name and address.

Tracing birth relatives

Many adopted adults choose to trace and make contact with birth relatives. Unfortunately ALE do not provide a tracing service but can provide information about agencies who do provide this support. These providers may charge for this service.

The General Registrar Office (GRO) runs an Adoption Contact Register. Adopted people and birth relatives over the age of 18 years can use this register to indicate whether they do or do not wish to have contact with each other. It costs £15 for an adopted adult to add their name to the register.



Other organisations providing information/advice

Family Connect helps adults who have been adopted find answers to questions about their origins. Their website helps people explore adoption related issues, providing information, guidance, support and signposting to help (www.familyconnect.org.uk).

Adoption Search and Reunion is a website for anyone thinking about searching for or making contact with birth and adopted relatives or researching an adoption that took place in the UK (www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk).

Adopt London East contact details

Address: Adopt London East Adoption Team, Town Hall, Romford, Essex, RM1 3BB

Telephone: 01708 434547

Email: AdoptLondonEast@haverling.gov.uk

Website: <https://adoptlondon.org.uk/adoption-support/adopt-london-east-support/>

