

# Adoption Support in Cheshire

## CHILDRENS SERVICES FACTSHEET

### Introduction

In Cheshire we understand that adoption is a lifelong journey. Our Adoption Service can provide information, advice and counselling as well as other services to adopted children, adoptive parents and birth families.

Adopted children and young people, like all other children, have the right: to be healthy, happy, and safe; to be loved, valued and respected; and to have high aspirations for their future.

Cheshire County Council provides a range of services to support all those touched by adoption:

- Children and young people who are adopted;
- Adoptive parents and their families;
- Birth parents and relatives; and
- Persons adopted as a child (now 18 years or older).

Adoption support can be requested at any point and when a request is received Cheshire's Adoption Support Team will make advice and information readily available and undertake a timely assessment of the need for adoption support.

### Introducing the Adoption Support Team

The Adoption Support Team is located at

#### Lorien

Darnhall School Lane, Winsford  
Cheshire CW7 1JR

The Adoption Team is able to provide:

- Advice;
- Information;
- Counselling; and
- An assessment service for the provision of adoption support

They also provide a range of different kinds of adoption support, as well as being able to put you in touch with other agencies who may be able to provide support.

If you would like to know more about adoption support, please contact our Adoption Support Services Adviser on 01606 275676 or email: [adoptionteams@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:adoptionteams@cheshire.gov.uk)

If you are an adopter and your child was placed with you by a local authority other than Cheshire, and you adopted less than three years ago, you can access adoption support from the local authority that placed your child.

### Types of Support Available

#### Support Groups

There are three local support groups in Cheshire. They offer adoptive parents the opportunity to meet each other, and to share information and experiences. There are also social events.

#### West Cheshire Adoption Support Group

Meeting place:  
County Officers Club,  
Plas Newton Lane, Chester

#### East Cheshire (Macclesfield) Adoption

Support Group  
Meeting place:  
Macclesfield Library, 2 Jordangate  
Macclesfield

#### Central Cheshire Support Group

Meeting place:  
Hartford Hall, School Lane,  
Hartford, Northwich,  
CW8 1PW



If you are interested in joining a group please complete the form on page 4 of this factsheet.

## Website

The Cheshire websites:

[www.adoptionincheshire.co.uk](http://www.adoptionincheshire.co.uk) and [www.cheshire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk) provide information about the Cheshire Adoption Service, events and policies.

## Contact Support

In adoption today many children may have on-going arrangements for contact with birth parents or relatives, for example brothers, sisters or grandparents. The Adoption Support Team administers the letterbox exchange of information between the families, which may take the form of letters, cards, or photographs.

Arrangements for contact are always carefully agreed and clearly recorded. Should there be changes or the need to review arrangements, information and advice is available from the Adoption Support Team.

The Team is able to offer mediation should the need arise in relation to contact arrangements.

## Support for Birth Parents and Birth Relatives

Parents and birth relatives are able to receive independent support from a Voluntary Adoption Agency, Adoption Matters, when their child is subject to care proceedings. Their contact details are:

### Adoption Matters Voluntary Adoption Agency

14 Liverpool Road  
Chester  
CH2 1AE  
Tel: 01244 390938

The service offers counselling advice and support to birth relatives, and a leaflet can be obtained from the above address. Information can also be found on the Adoption Matters website:

[www.adoptionmatters.org](http://www.adoptionmatters.org)

## Intermediary services and Access to Birth Records

Advice, support, and counselling are available to adopted adults seeking information about their

adoption records, or their birth relatives. This service is provided by the Adoption Support Team at Lorient in Winsford.

Advice, support, and counselling are also available to birth parents and relatives wishing to seek information about an adopted relative who is now over 18 years old.

A specialist worker in the Adoption Support Team offers an intermediary service where someone who is adopted or their birth relative wants to make contact.

## Assessment for Adoption Support

If there is a need for adoption support services, an assessment will be undertaken.

The purpose of the assessment is to find out a whole picture of the issues that are of concern and to agree with all involved about the best way forward. Other agencies will be asked to contribute their views and information, with the agreement of the person concerned. The aim of the assessment is to clarify how best to meet the needs of the child and their family.

If you would like an assessment for adoption support, please contact the Adoption Support Team by email or phone. Following assessment, if appropriate, a plan will be agreed as to the best way to meet the needs identified. If a support service is then agreed it will be monitored and reviewed by the Adoption Support Team to ensure it is the right service for you.

## Financial Support

In certain circumstances financial support may be available. In Cheshire all requests for financial support will be considered as part of a full assessment of the adopted child and the family's resources.

Examples could include where there are specific costs incurred by looking after an adopted child, for example the need for special diet or towards contact arrangement.

Welfare rights advice is available to ensure families have all the benefits they need.

## Referral to partner agencies for support

Adoption support is provided in close partnership with all the other agencies which can offer

support services to children and families in Cheshire.

Any assessment for adoption support will involve careful consideration as to which service can best meet these needs. It may be a service from another part of Cheshire County Council, for example

These services from Cheshire County Council could include:

- Children's Assessment and Care Planning Teams
- Family Centres
- Disability Teams
- Education Services
- Children's Centres
- Welfare Rights advice from Cheshire County Council
- Multi Professional Support teams
- Parent partnership

Or it may mean referral to another agency altogether, for example

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)
- Youth Offending Services and Connexions (works in partnership with Cheshire County Council)
- Crossroads
- Health
- CAB or other welfare rights agency

## Further Information

The following **national organisations** can assist with issues to do with Adoption:

- Adoption UK Helpline (available to non-members) 0870 7700 450  
Adoption UK Online community:  
[www.adoptionuk.org](http://www.adoptionuk.org)
- BAAF (British Association of Adoption and fostering) 0207 5932000 [www.baaf.org.uk](http://www.baaf.org.uk)
- OASIS (Inter-country Adoption) 0870 2417069 [www.adoptionoverseas.org](http://www.adoptionoverseas.org)
- Overseas Adoption Helpline 0870 516 8742 [info@oah.org.uk](mailto:info@oah.org.uk)

- Talk Adoption Helpline (for adopted children and young people – free helpline)  
Tel: 0808 808 1234  
[www.talkadoption.org.uk](http://www.talkadoption.org.uk)
- Adoption Matters (independent support to birth relatives)  
Tel: 01244 390938  
[www.adoptionmatters.org](http://www.adoptionmatters.org)
- Norcap (supporting adults affected by adoption)  
Tel: 01865 875000 [www.norcap.org.uk](http://www.norcap.org.uk)
- Natural Parents Network (supporting birth parents)  
Helpline: 0161 287 8737  
[www.n-p-n.co.uk](http://www.n-p-n.co.uk)
- Tulip Group (Supporting adopters experiencing abuse)  
[tulipgroup@hotmail.com](mailto:tulipgroup@hotmail.com)

## Getting things right

Cheshire County Council has a factsheet which gives full details - **Getting things right How to make a comment, complaint or compliment.** Should you feel unhappy with the service provided please either speak to a member of staff or ask for the fact sheet "**Getting the Best from Complaints**" – Children's Services Complaints factsheet.

We welcome feedback on all aspects of our service and would like to hear from you if we have provided a good service, or if you have any suggestions or ideas which could lead to improvements.

If you want to contact the Adoption Support team please email [adoptionteams@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:adoptionteams@cheshire.gov.uk). If you want information about adoption support groups either email for information or complete the form on page 4:

## REQUEST FOR ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP INFORMATION

If you are interested in joining an Adoption Support group please complete these details:

Name/s.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone Number.....

Email address.....

I / We would like to join an adoption support group.

Please let me know details of the next meeting in my area.

Signature.....

To the Adoption Support Team at:

Lorien  
Darnhall School Lane  
Winsford,  
Cheshire  
CW7 1JR

Or email  
[adoptionteams@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:adoptionteams@cheshire.gov.uk)

**More information can be obtained from your local Childrens Service office:**

**Chester**

Goldsmith House  
Hamilton Place  
Chester CH1 1SE  
01244 973400  
Fax 01244 973130

Opening times  
Mon – Thu 8.30am – 5.00pm  
Fri 8.30am – 4.30pm

**Vale Royal**

or Wyvern House  
The Drummer  
Winsford CW7 1AU  
01606 275600  
Fax 01606 275601

Opening times  
Mon – Thu 9.00am – 5.00pm  
Fri 9.00am – 4.30pm

**Wilmslow**

County Offices  
Chapel Lane  
Wilmslow SK9 1PU  
01625 374700  
Fax 01625 410746

Appointment only  
Mon and Wed  
9.00am – 12.00pm

**Ellesmere Port**

County Offices  
Coronation Road  
Ellesmere Port CH65 9AA  
0151 337 4500  
Fax 0151 337 4646

Opening times  
Mon – Thu 8.30am – 5.00pm  
Fri 8.30am – 4.30pm

**Crewe**

Delamere House  
Delamere Street  
Crewe CW1 2LL  
01270 375215  
Fax 01270 375352

Opening times  
Every weekday  
9.00am – 5.00pm

**Macclesfield**

The Library  
Jordangate  
Macclesfield SK10 1EE  
01625 374700  
Fax 01625 410746

Opening times  
Mon – Thu, 9.30am – 5.00pm  
Fri 9.30am – 4.30pm

**Vale Royal**

County Offices  
Watling Street  
Northwich CW9 5ET  
01606 275005  
Fax 01606 275052

Opening times  
Mon – Thu 8.30am – 5.00pm  
Fri 8.30am – 4.30pm

**Congleton**

54 Lawton Street  
Congleton  
01625 374700  
Fax 01625 410746

Appointment only at  
54 Lawton Street, Congleton  
Tue and Thu 10.00am – 1.00pm

**The Saturday Access Service  
and Emergency Duty Team**

01606 76611  
Fax 01606 275776

**Cheshire County Council  
General public enquiries**

and information  
0845 11 333 11  
[www.cheshire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk)

This fact sheet is available in alternative formats, including large print, Braille, audio and other languages, on request from Cheshire County Council Communications Team, County Hall, Chester, CH1 1SF. Phone 0845 11 333 11 [www.cheshire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk) [info@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:info@cheshire.gov.uk)