



# **Our Guide to Adoption Support for Children and Young People**



**By  
your  
side**

# **We all need a safe space to ask questions**



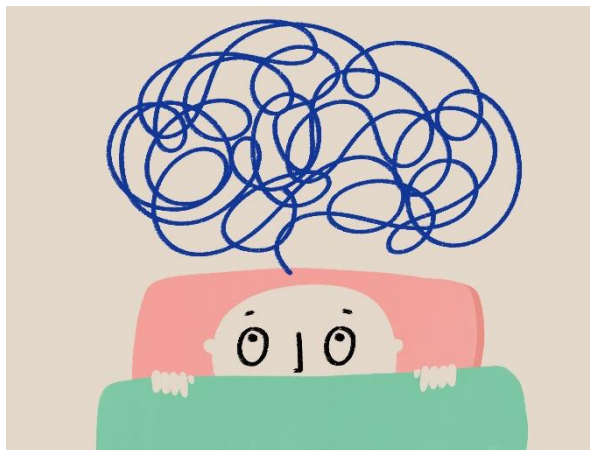
**How do I find out  
about Staying in  
Touch Arrangements  
that are in place with  
my birth family?**

**I want to talk  
about what it is  
like to be  
adopted.**

**What is on  
your mind?**

**I want to  
discuss  
worries  
about my  
family.**

**How do I choose  
who to tell I am  
adopted, and  
how much should  
I tell them?**





## We are here...



**Adoption Partnership South East, Stable Block,  
Oakwood House, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8AE**

To find out more about how we can help speak with your parents and ask them to get in touch with the Adoption Support service by telephone **03000 422 373** or email us on [adoption.support@kent.gov.uk](mailto:adoption.support@kent.gov.uk)

We are a service made up of different professionals, including Social Workers, Therapists, and Business Support staff, who are all passionate about helping families in our community.



## Other support that is available

### Participation Events

The Participation Team run regular fun days throughout the year in the school holidays. The days are open to all adopted young people aged 7-15, living in the London borough of Bexley, Kent, and Medway. We run a variety of



activities including baking, water sports, arts and crafts and horse riding. These days give young people a chance to have fun, make friends and meet other young people who are part of the adoption community. If you are interested in finding out more about these events let your parents know and they can get in touch with Adoption Support.

### Adoptables Group

The Adoptables Group is exclusively for adopted young people, aged 11-16 living in the London Borough of Bexley, Kent, and Medway. The group meet every school holiday and is a safe space where young people have the opportunity to talk about their experiences of adoption with other young people who may have had similar experiences to themselves. The aim of the group is to help young people to form positive relationships and develop self-confidence, and contribute their ideas about how adoption can be improved for children and their families, which is shared with Adoption Partnership South East. If you are interested in finding out more about these events let your parents know and they can get in touch with Adoption Support.

## Young Persons Reference Group

The Young Person's Reference Group for adopted young people aged 16-25 living in the London Borough of Bexley, Kent, and Medway. The group meet online to discuss issues that may affect older young people within the adoption community, members' views are also fed back to Adoption Partnership South East to help improve services offered to the adoption community.

If you would like to find out more about what The VSK Participation Team can offer, please contact

[VSK\\_Adoptionparticipation@kent.gov.uk](mailto:VSK_Adoptionparticipation@kent.gov.uk)

## Support at School



Everyone in your school or college is there to help you. If you want to talk with someone at your school, it's good to start with your classroom teacher or a trusted adult. They may introduce you to the **Designated Teacher**.

Every school has a Designated Teacher for looked after and previously looked after children. Their role is to promote your educational achievement and will promote a culture in which your personal, emotional, and academic needs are prioritised.

This guide outlines the role of the Designated Teacher

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children)



**Here are some other places that can give you help and advice when you need it**

## childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME  
[childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk) | 0800 1111

A free helpline for children and young people.

Telephone: 0800 1111 Website: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



A space created by young people for young people to help navigate and learn about emotions. [Home - MoodSpark](#)



Telephone service offering mentoring, training and advocacy for young people living in the South East, to find out more visit their website

[The Young Lives Foundation - Making a Difference \(ylf.org.uk\)](http://ylf.org.uk)







The Children's Commissioner works to promote and protect children's rights in England. Our work focuses on making sure that adults in charge, or making decisions, listen to what children and young people say about

things that affect them.

For free confidential advice telephone **0800 528 0731**

or email: [help.team@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](mailto:help.team@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

Website: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)



We want to make sure that we get things right for you but if something happens that you are not happy about, please tell us by contacting us directly by telephone

**03000 422 373** or email us on [adoption.support@kent.gov.uk](mailto:adoption.support@kent.gov.uk) and a member of the team will be in touch. If you wish to make a complaint, please contact the complaints team by telephone on: **03000 410304** or email: [cscomplaints@kent.gov.uk](mailto:cscomplaints@kent.gov.uk)

