



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Services for adoptive families living in Nottinghamshire after an Adoption Order has been made



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This booklet describes the services available to you if you have adopted a child/ren and live in Nottinghamshire.

Some of the services are available to all families. These are known as universal services. Many of the people who deliver universal services are aware of the impact of adoption.

Other services are specifically provided for adoptive families.



Universal services

Some key universal services are provided to all children.

As a resident of Nottinghamshire your child/ren will be entitled to these services.

The key ones are:

Health including GPs, health visitors, midwives and school nurses

Early education and childcare

Primary and secondary education



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Additional services

There are some additional services within Nottinghamshire from which your child/ren may benefit. These include:

Specialist resources within education

Clinical nurse specialist

Services for disabled children

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Youth services

Nottinghamshire Families Information Service

Connexions



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Specialist resources within education

Your adopted child/ren may be struggling with schoolwork and also with the social aspects of being at school.

Each school in the county has a **designated teacher** for looked after children, to help students who are having learning difficulties. In Nottinghamshire this includes adopted children.

Please make contact with the designated teacher at your child's school if you need help or advice.

Nottinghamshire also has a **virtual headteacher** who works with schools and designated teachers to help them work effectively with young people who have been adopted. The aim is to help students achieve their potential.

The service can be contacted on **01623 434149**.

For students with additional needs a **senior educational psychologist** is available who can be contacted on **0115 878 3598**.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

A **clinical nurse specialist** for adoption is available to give support and advice regarding child health issues.

The clinical nurse specialist can be contacted on **0115 883 1196**.

Clinical nurse specialist



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Services for disabled children

If you want help or advice about services for deaf and disabled children and you live in:

Mansfield, Ashfield, Hucknall, Bassetlaw or **Newark** contact the **duty social worker** for the **Disabled Children's Team** on **01623 433433**.

Broxtowe, Gedling or **Rushcliffe** contact the **duty social worker** for the **Disabled Children's Team** on **0115 914 1500**.

Leaflets about benefits and services for disabled children are available from the **Communications Unit** on **0115 977 2401** or email **communications.ssd@nottscc.gov.uk**

Information on a range of benefits and services for disabled children is available from Nottinghamshire County Council's website **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk**



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is available through health and childcare social workers.

The team is part of the **National Health Service** and includes psychologists, psychotherapists, social workers and nurses.

Nottinghamshire CAMHS provides a specialist service for looked after children and also work with adopted children and their families.

Referrals to the **CAMHS Children Looked After and Adoption Team** can be made via your family GP or other health professional or via **Support After Adoption**.

For more information go to www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Youth services

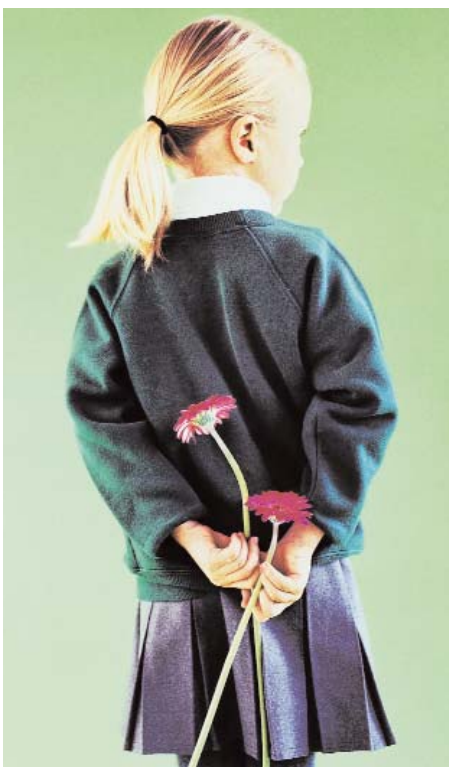
There is a wide range of statutory and voluntary youth services within local communities.

Information about the **Nottinghamshire Youth Service** can be found at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/youthzone

Youth services also work closely with Nottinghamshire's **Support After Adoption** team to provide specific activities for adopted children and young people.

Information about youth activities is provided in the Support After Adoption newsletter and in Support After Adoption mailings.

If you would like your child/ren to take part please contact Support After Adoption [see page 28 for contact details].

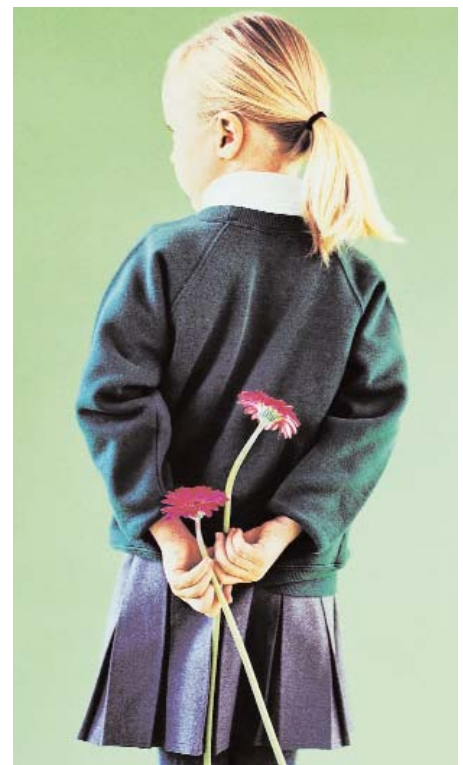


Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Nottinghamshire Families Information Service (FIS) provides information about local services, support and activities including childcare for parents and carers of children and young people up to the age of 20 years.

For information go to
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/
familiesinformationservice](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/familiesinformationservice)

Nottinghamshire Families Information Service



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Connexions

Connexions Nottinghamshire is a service offering confidential advice to young people aged 13 to 19 years.

The service offers advice about educational choices, careers, housing, health, drugs, abuse, pregnancy, the law, and other issues.

Connexions can be contacted on **0808 001 3219** or go to

www.connexions-direct.com

or

www.sortitonline.com



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Adoption services

Recent regulations place duties on local authorities to carry out assessments of needs for adoption support services.

Once the assessments have been completed the local authority must decide whether to provide any services. The services required to meet the needs of your child and your family should be identified as part of an adoption support plan.

Services include:

Support from your child's local authority

Adoption support services in Nottinghamshire

Support After Adoption

Out of hours advice

Adoption UK groups

Events for adoptive families

Welfare rights advice

Training events and library services



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Support from your child's local authority

The local authority who placed your child/ren (the **placing agency**) maintains responsibility for providing support for the first three years after the Adoption Order is made.

Some support services will **always** remain the responsibility of the placing agency. These include:

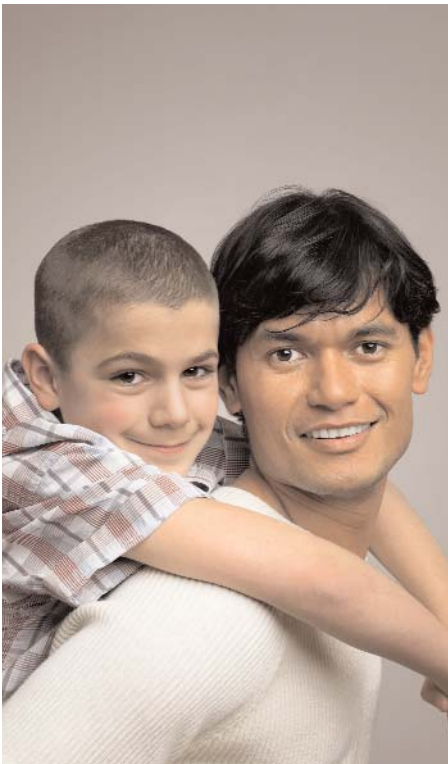
Contact: Contact arrangements are usually agreed before the Adoption Order is made. Arrangements for all types of contact remain with the placing agency until adulthood.

Under some circumstances payments may be made to help maintain contact arrangements. If contact costs have been agreed these also remain the responsibility of the placing agency.

Finance: If the placing agency makes ongoing payments to support the placement that commitment remains with the placing agency.

If some new need for financial support occurs within the first three years after the Adoption Order you need to ask the placing agency to make a new assessment of your needs.

If you have ongoing financial support and your circumstances change at any stage you need to immediately inform the agency who makes those ongoing payments.



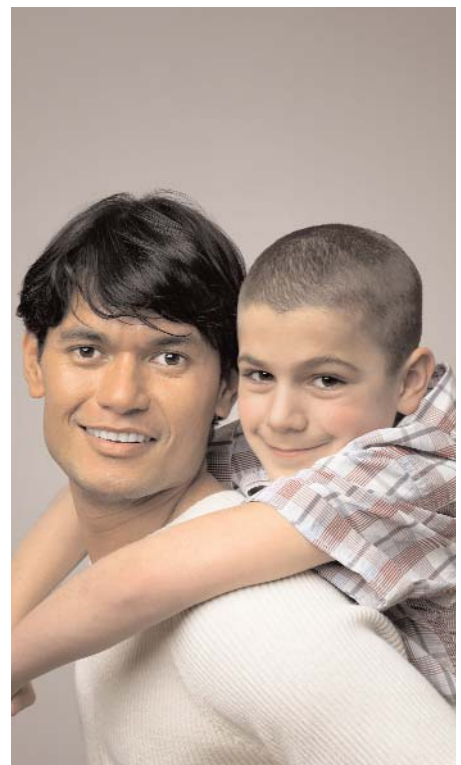
Support from your child's local authority

It is also worth asking the **placing agency** to arrange a welfare rights assessment for you to ensure you receive all the Tax Credits and benefits you are entitled to. This should be in addition to any adoption financial support you receive.

Records: As your child gets older you may find he or she asking questions and you may no longer have enough information about his or her history.

Adoption records are kept by the placing agency for 100 years. If you want more background information or information about the birth family health history, contact the placing agency.

If your child was placed by Nottinghamshire and you want more information about the birth family's health you can contact **Support After Adoption** who can offer advice about accessing the records. They can also arrange for you to receive advice from a **specialist adoption medical adviser**.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Adoption support services in Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire County Council is a local authority adoption agency.

Under the Adoption Support Services Regulations local authorities are required to provide a range of services to meet the needs of people affected by adoption.

Adoption services available within Nottinghamshire include:

Adoption Support Services Adviser (ASSA): All local authorities must have an ASSA whose role is to provide advice and information to all parties involved in adoption.

The ASSA can help to direct people to services they may need. This may involve Nottinghamshire's **Support After Adoption** service.

Nottinghamshire's ASSA is a team manager in the adoption service and can be contacted on **01623 437552**.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Support After Adoption

Nottinghamshire's post adoption team, **Support After Adoption (SAA)**, provides a range of services for adoptive families, adopted adults and birth families.

The team includes experienced qualified **social workers, workers with specialist therapeutic skills**, a **counsellor** and a group of **volunteers**, many of whom have direct experience of adoption.

Support After Adoption offers the following services:

Assessment of support needs

SAA works closely with other social work colleagues to implement adoption support plans.

If your adopted son or daughter is under 18 years you can ask for an assessment of your support needs if :

You live in Nottinghamshire and we placed your child for adoption

or

It is three years or more since the Adoption Order was made

This assessment will explore your circumstances and identify your needs. There is no automatic right to services.

Inclusion on the mailing list and newsletter

This tells you about forthcoming events including children and people's events. Please contact SAA if you have not received the newsletter and wish to be included on the mailing list.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Support After Adoption

Advice for Black and inter-racial families

Includes contact details of organisations supporting Caribbean and Asian families.

Activity days and workshops for young people

Services for young people

Includes therapeutic support for children and families and therapeutic workshops for children and young people.

Post Adoption Linking Scheme (PALS)

Offers support for adoptive families through mentoring and befriending.

Life Story work

Adoption identity

For children.

Loss counselling

For adults and children.

Adoption awareness raising

For adoptive parents, professionals and their networks.

Contact

The Nottinghamshire **letterbox** scheme is run by **SAA** and looks after all exchanges of letters agreed for children who were placed by Nottinghamshire.

SAA can offer advice and support on letterbox arrangements set up by Nottinghamshire. For this service contact **01623 437232**.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Support After Adoption

Advice and mediation

In face to face contact arrangements which were set up by Nottinghamshire at the time of adoption.

Please contact the **letterbox** service if you wish to discuss additional support for contact arrangements.

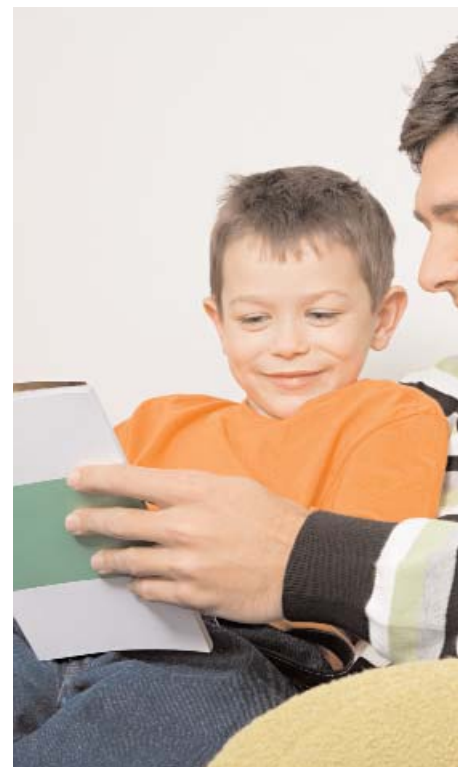
SAA can also work with families when **adoptions have broken down**. This includes helping young people and adoptive parents to stay in contact and in rebuilding relationships. If you think this may be useful to you **contact the telephone advice line on 01623 437988** [see page 19 for details].

Finance

If your financial circumstances change after the initial period of **three years following the making of the Adoption Order**, and you feel your child has needs that were not assessed at the time the Adoption Order was made, contact SAA.

Nottinghamshire will then assess the child's needs and your circumstances. There is no automatic right to adoption financial support and Nottinghamshire applies a 'means test' when assessing eligibility.

If you receive regular financial support from Nottinghamshire this will be reviewed annually and you will need to contact the **County Payments Team** if your financial circumstances change.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Support After Adoption

Access to adoption records

All adopted people over 18 are entitled to a copy of their original birth certificate and information from birth records if they wish.

Young people who were placed for adoption by Nottinghamshire can contact **SAA** for records information. SAA can also offer advice and assistance to young people, who were placed by agencies outside of Nottinghamshire, about contacting the appropriate agency.

Intermediary Services

For adopted young people wanting reunions, usually once they are over 18 years of age.

Advice and information

The SAA telephone advice line is open:

Monday between **9.30am** and **1.00pm**

Tuesday between **4.00pm** and **7.30pm**

Thursday between **1.00pm** and **4.00pm**

and can be contacted on **01623 437988**.

More information about services provided by Support After Adoption is available at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Out of hours advice

The **Fostering and Adoption Advice Line** offers specialist parenting advice out of hours.

The line is open:

Monday to Friday between **6pm** and **10pm**
Weekends and **Bank holidays** between
10am and **10pm**

and can be contacted on **0800 085 8995**.

The **Emergency Duty Team** operates when locality offices are closed and is available:

Monday to Friday between **5pm** and **8.30am**
Weekends between **5pm** on **Friday** to
8.30am on **Monday**

and can be contacted on **0300 456 4546**.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Adoption UK groups

Nottinghamshire is working in partnership with **Adoption UK** to develop a number of support groups across the county.

These groups are run by experienced adoptive parents for adoptive parents and provide the opportunity to meet up in an informal environment to offer support.

The meetings include a range of informal evening meetings, speakers, social and family get-togethers.

Details about Nottinghamshire's Adoption UK groups can be obtained from **Support After Adoption**.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

If Nottinghamshire approved you as an adoptive parent you may receive invitations to the *belonging* social events arranged by **Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**.

This is a way for us to recognise your important relationship with Nottinghamshire and to help you keep in touch with other adoptive parents.

The social events may also offer the opportunity for brothers and sisters in separate adoptive families to meet up from time to time.

Contact Nottinghamshire Adoption Service on **01623 476876**.

Events for adoptive families



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Welfare rights advice

Adoption financial support must not duplicate any payments available through the benefits or Tax Credit system.

Nottinghamshire has a specialist **Adoption Welfare Rights Adviser** who can give advice on Tax Credits and benefits including disability benefits.

You may be entitled to this welfare rights advice service if your adoption was arranged by Nottinghamshire.

Contact **Support After Adoption** for further information.

In addition Nottinghamshire Welfare Rights service has an advice line for general benefit queries on **0845 601 5943**.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Nottinghamshire's **Adoption Training Co-ordinator** organises learning and development events and opportunities for adoptive parents.

For more information contact
0115 945 2764.

Nottinghamshire Adoption Service and the **Library Service** are working in partnership to offer all adoptive families, and other parties to adoption, who live in the county, access to an extensive collection of adoption related books and resources held in local libraries.

Reservation is free of charge on production of a special library card.

To receive a library card contact **Support After Adoption.**

Training events and library services



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Useful organisations

Adoption UK
0870 770 0450
www.adoptionuk.org.uk

Adoption UK membership
01295 752240
admin@adoptionuk.org.uk

British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF)
Saffron House
6-10 Kirby Street
LONDON
EC1N 8TS
0207 421 2600
www.baaf.org.uk

General Register Office (GRO)
Any adopted person can write to the **GRO** for information about their records

Smedley Hydro
Trafalgar Road
SOUTHPORT
PR8 2HH
Adoption section: **0151 471 4830**
General enquiries: **0151 471 4200**
www.gro.gov.uk

New Family Social
Is a group run for and by lesbian and gay adopters and prospective adopters.
For information go to
www.newfamilysocial.co.uk



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

National Organisation for Counselling Adoptees and their Parents (NORCAP)

Is a specialist adoption support agency and the home of the longest established UK adoption contact register. It is a nationwide charity working to support and guide adults whose lives have been touched by adoption.

12 Church Road
Wheatley
OXFORD
OX33 1LU

www.norcap.org.uk

Post Adoption Centre (PAC)

PAC provides independent advice, counselling and support to anyone affected by or dealing with the challenges and opportunities of adoption.

5 Torriano Mews
Torriano Avenue
LONDON
NW5 2RZ

www.postadoptioncentre.org.uk

Useful organisations



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Nottinghamshire services contact details

Adoption Support Services Adviser (ASSA)
01623 437552

**Child and Adolescent Mental Health
Services (CAMHS)**

www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk

Clinical Nurse Specialist for Adoption
0115 883 1196

Connexions
0808 001 3219

County Payments Team
0115 977 3758 or **0115 977 3264**

Disabled Children's Team
01623 433433 or **0115 914 1500**

Emergency Duty Team (Nottinghamshire)
0300 456 4546

**Fostering and Adoption Advice Line
(Nottinghamshire)**
0800 085 8995

Learning and Development
0115 945 2764

Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
For adoptive parents approved by
Nottinghamshire.
01623 476876



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Nottinghamshire services contact details

Nottinghamshire's complaints procedure **08449 80 80 80**

Or write to Customer Relations Service,
Nottinghamshire County Council, County
Hall, West Bridgford NG2 7QP.

Nottinghamshire County Council **08449 80 80 80**

Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm. Saturday 8am
to 12noon (calls cost 3p inc VAT per minute
from BT landlines. Mobile and other providers
costs may vary. See www.bt.com/pricing).

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Nottinghamshire Welfare Rights Service **0845 601 5943**

Advice line Monday to Friday 11am to 1pm.

Senior Educational Psychologist **0115 878 3598**

Support After Adoption (Nottinghamshire)

General enquiries: **01623 437223**

Telephone advice line: **01623 437988**

Letterbox enquiries: **01623 437232**

Email: support.afteradoption@nottsc.gov.uk

Virtual Headteacher **01623 434149**



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Feedback

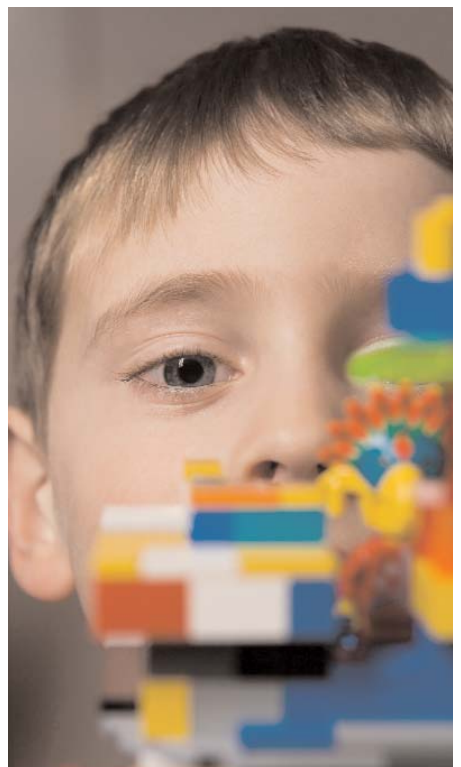
We hope you find the information in this booklet useful and would welcome feedback or suggestions to improve it.

Write to:

Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
First Floor
Chadburn House
Weighbridge Road
MANSFIELD
NG18 1AH



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption



Contacting us

email adoption@nottscc.gov.uk

phone 01623 437552

post Nottinghamshire Adoption Service, First Floor, Chadburn House,
Weighbridge Road, Mansfield NG18 1AH

internet www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

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