



Nottinghamshire  
County Council

# Services for adoptive families **living outside** 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 outside Nottinghamshire but have a connection such as you were approved by or your child was placed by 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 and 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](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

Your child/ren and/or your family may benefit from additional local services.

These may include:

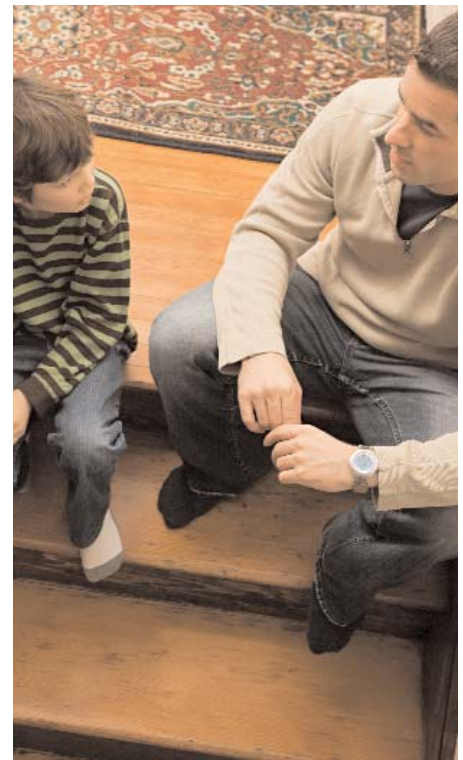
## **Specialist resources within education**

### **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

### **Youth services**

### **Connexions**

# **Additional services**



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://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 should have a **designated teacher** for looked after children to help students who are having difficulties. In some counties this includes adopted children.

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

Nottinghamshire 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.

If you were approved by Nottinghamshire or your child was placed by Nottinghamshire the service can be contacted on **01623 434149**.

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



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

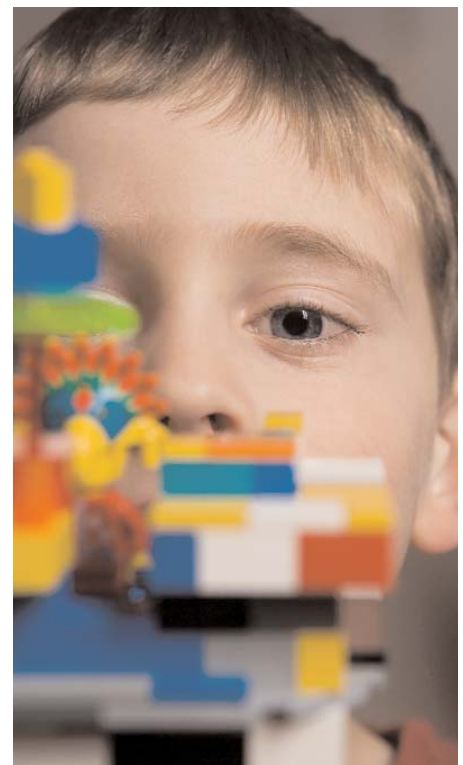
**Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)** are available in all areas through health and childcare social workers.

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

Some counties have a specialist CAMHS service for looked after children and may 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. Alternatively you can contact your local Primary Care Trust or your child's social worker for details of these services.

## Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

## Youth services

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

Contact your local council for details.



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

**Connexions** is a service offering confidential advice to young people aged between 13 and 19 years.

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

Contact **0808 001 3219** or go to

**[www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com)**

or

**[www.sortitonline.com](http://www.sortitonline.com)**



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
**[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)**

# Adoption services

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

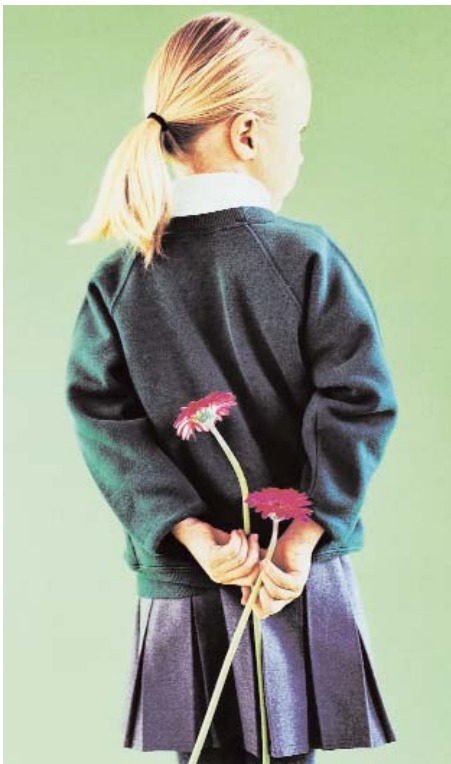
Once the assessments have been completed the local authority must decide whether to provide any services. The services required to meet the needs of your child and your family should be identified as part of an adoption support plan.

Services include:

## **Support from your child's local authority**

### **Adoption Support Services Adviser**

### **Post adoption services**



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

## Support from your child's local authority

The local authority that placed your child (the **placing agency**) maintains responsibility for providing support for the first three years after the making of the Adoption Order.

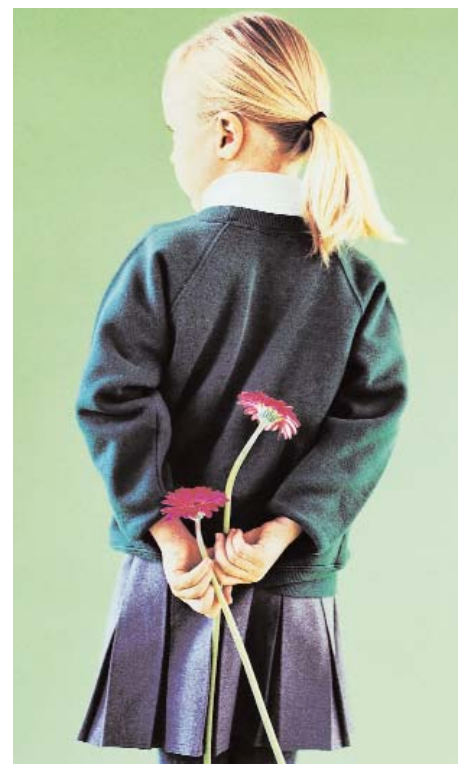
Some support services will **always** remain the responsibility of the placing agency and are:

**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 that agency.

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



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

## Support from your child's local authority

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.

It is also worth asking the child's **placing agency** to arrange a welfare rights assessment for you to ensure you receive all 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** which can offer advice about accessing the records. Support After Adoption can also arrange for you to receive advice from a **specialist adoption medical adviser**.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

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

The ASSA can also help to direct people to other services they may need. This may involve Nottinghamshire's **Support After Adoption** service (if you have adopted a child from Nottinghamshire) or a similar 'after adoption' or 'post adoption' service within your own local authority.

## Adoption Support Services Adviser



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

## Post adoption services

All local authority adoption agencies are required to provide services for all parties involved in adoption, both before and after the Adoption Order has been made.

Nottinghamshire's **Support After Adoption (SAA)** team provides a wide range of services for adoptive families, birth families and adopted people with a Nottinghamshire connection.

You may be able to access these services for the first three years after the Adoption Order has been made if Nottinghamshire placed your child with you.

Otherwise, Support After Adoption will provide advice and direct you to your local agency.

Services provided by Nottinghamshire's Support After Adoption include:

### **Telephone and email advice and information**

### **Inclusion on the mailing list, and newsletter**

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

### **Support groups**

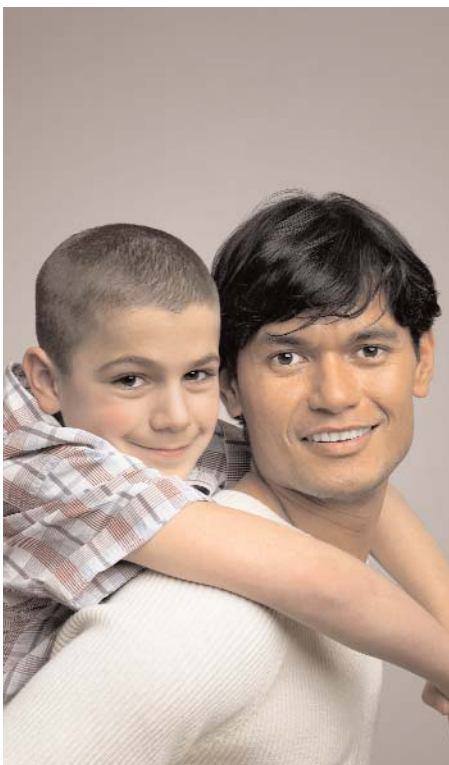
For adoptive parents.

### **Therapeutic workshops**

For children and young people.

### **Post Adoption Linking Scheme (PALS)**

Offers support for adoptive families through mentoring and befriending.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

# Post adoption services

## Training events

Organised by Nottinghamshire's **Adoption Training Co-ordinator**. For more information contact **Learning and Development** on **0115 945 2764**

## Life Story work

## Adoption identity work

For children

## Contact

The Nottinghamshire **letterbox scheme** is run by **Support After Adoption**. It can offer advice and support on letterbox arrangements that were set up by Nottinghamshire. This support can be accessed until adopted children reach adulthood, and can be contacted on **01623 437232**

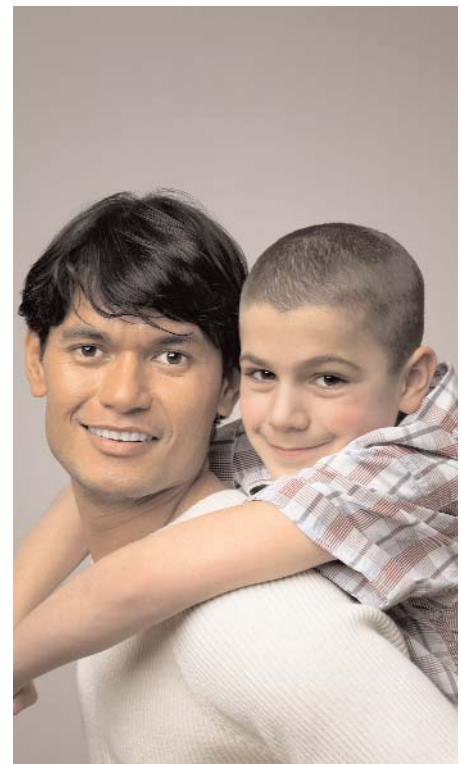
## Advice and mediation

Face-to-face contact arrangements set up by Nottinghamshire at the time of adoption

## Access to adoption records

All adopted people over 18 year are entitled to a copy of their original birth certificate and information from birth records. Adopted adults who were placed for adoption by Nottinghamshire should contact their **local post adoption service** for advice and support in accessing their records.

More information about services provided by Support After Adoption is available at **[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)**



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

# Other adoption support services

Other specific adoption support services will depend upon your circumstances.

Please choose which part of the information in this booklet applies to you from the following options:

**If you were approved to adopt by Nottinghamshire and you have a child placed by Nottinghamshire** [see page 16]

**If you were approved to adopt by Nottinghamshire and you have a child placed by another adoption agency** [see page 19]

**If you were approved by another adoption agency and you have a Nottinghamshire child placed with you** [see page 21]



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

Your support needs will be met by Nottinghamshire for three years after your Adoption Order has been made.

If you require some general support during the three years you should contact your **adoption social worker**.

Occasionally, if you live a long distance away, Nottinghamshire will commission support from your local area if that will provide a better service.

**Support After Adoption** may also provide a range of services up to three years after the Adoption Order has been made.

**Events:** You may receive invitations to the *belonging* social events arranged by **Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**.

These are a way for us to recognise your important relationship with this agency, and to help you keep in touch with other adoptive parents.

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

**If you were approved to adopt by Nottinghamshire and you have a child placed by Nottinghamshire**



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

## If you were approved to adopt by Nottinghamshire and you have a child placed by Nottinghamshire

**Records:** If your child was placed by Nottinghamshire and you want information about the child's background or birth family health history you can contact Nottinghamshire's **Support After Adoption** service which can offer advice on accessing records.

Support After Adoption can also arrange for you to have advice from a **specialist adoption medical adviser**.

Some areas will remain Nottinghamshire's responsibility until your child reaches adulthood. These are:

**Responsibility for contact arrangements agreed when your child was placed**

**Any regular payments agreed at the time of placement to support your family in caring for your child**

**Finance:** If you receive regular financial support from Nottinghamshire this will be reviewed annually.

You will need to advise the **County Payments Team** if your financial circumstances change between these annual reviews.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

If, during the three year period following the making of the Adoption Order, you wish to be assessed for further financial assistance, due to the changing nature of your child's needs, you need to contact Nottinghamshire's **Support After Adoption** service.

If your financial circumstances change more than three years after the Adoption Order, and you feel your child has needs that were not assessed at the time the Adoption Order was made, contact your **local post adoption service**.

You can request that your local adoption service carries out an assessment for post adoption support for your child and yourself.

Three years after the Adoption Order has been made support becomes the responsibility of the post adoption team in your local area.

You may wish to ask a **Nottinghamshire worker** to assist you in accessing your **local post adoption service** as you approach this three year point.

**If you were approved to adopt by Nottinghamshire and you have a child placed by Nottinghamshire**



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

**If you were approved to adopt by Nottinghamshire and you have a child placed by another adoption agency**

You will already know the child's **placing agency** has responsibility for contact arrangements agreed at the time of placement.

This responsibility continues until your child becomes an adult. It is also the placing agency's responsibility to continue with any agreed financial support.

If your financial situation changes you should get in touch with the **financial section** of your **child's local authority** who makes the payments.

Your child's placing agency continues to have prime responsibility for supporting you in the first three years after the Adoption Order has been made.

Your **adoption social worker** may also continue to provide support and advice.



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

You may receive invitations to the *belonging* social events arranged by **Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**.

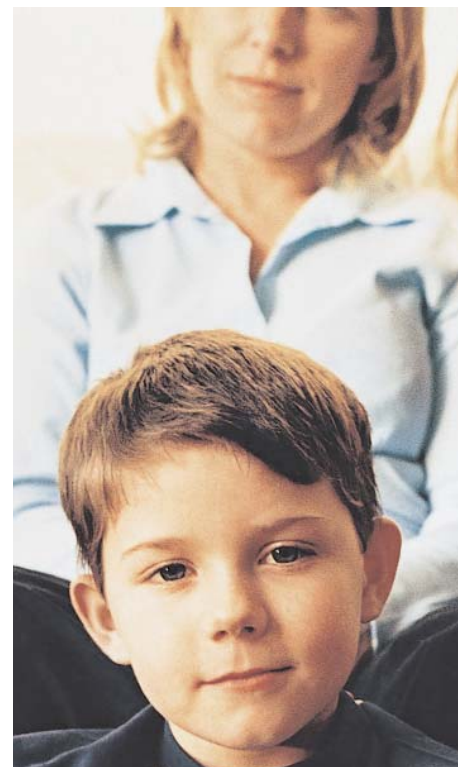
These are a way for us to recognise your important relationship with this agency, and to help you keep in touch with other adoptive parents.

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

Three years after the Adoption Order has been made support becomes the responsibility of the **post adoption team in your local area**.

You may wish to ask a **Nottinghamshire worker** to assist you in accessing your local post adoption service as you approach this three year point.

**If you were approved to adopt by Nottinghamshire and you have a child placed by another adoption agency**



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

**If you were approved by another adoption agency and you have a Nottinghamshire child placed with you**

Nottinghamshire will continue to be responsible for any contact arrangements and any on-going financial support agreed at the time of placement, up until your child becomes an adult.

**Finance:** If you receive regular financial support from Nottinghamshire this will be reviewed annually.

You will need to advise the **County Payments Team** if your financial circumstances change between these annual reviews.

If, during the three year period following the making of the Adoption Order, you wish to be assessed for further financial assistance, due to the changing nature of your child's needs, you need to contact Nottinghamshire's **Support After Adoption** service.

If your financial circumstances change more than three years after the Adoption Order, and you feel your child has needs that were not assessed at the time the Adoption Order was made, contact your **local post adoption service**.

You can request that your local adoption service carries out an assessment for post adoption support for your child and yourself.

Depending on its agreement with you and with Nottinghamshire, **your own (approving) agency** may continue to offer support.



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

**Support After Adoption** may also provide a range of services up to three years after the Adoption Order has been made. You or **your approving social worker** can also ask for inclusion on the Support After Adoption mailing list.

**Records:** If your child was placed by **Nottinghamshire** and you want information about the child's background or birth family health history you can contact Nottinghamshire's Support After Adoption service which can offer advice on accessing records.

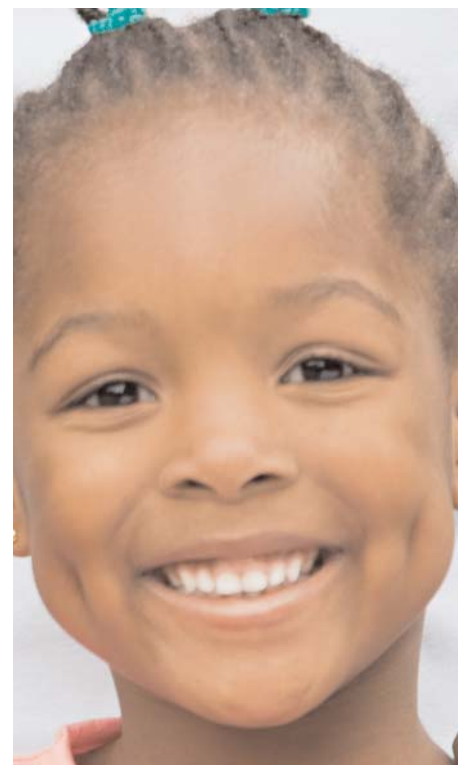
Support After Adoption can also arrange for you to have advice from a **specialist adoption medical adviser**.

**Your approving social worker** or Support After Adoption can assist you with accessing any specialised services your child may need in education or health within your area.

Three years after the Adoption Order has been made support becomes the responsibility of the **post adoption team in your local area**.

You may wish to ask a **Nottinghamshire worker** to assist you in accessing your local post adoption service as you approach this three year point.

**If you were approved by another adoption agency and you have a Nottinghamshire child placed with you**



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

# Useful organisations

**Adoption UK**  
**0870 770 0450**  
[www.adoptionuk.org.uk](http://www.adoptionuk.org.uk)

**Adoption UK membership**  
**01295 752240**  
[admin@adoptionuk.org.uk](mailto:admin@adoptionuk.org.uk)

**British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF)**  
Skyline House  
200 Union Street  
LONDON  
SE1 0LX  
**0207 593 2000**  
[www.baaf.org.uk](http://www.baaf.org.uk)

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

Smedley Hydro  
Trafalgar Road  
SOUTHPORT  
PR8 2HH  
Adoption section: **0151 471 4830**  
General enquiries: **0151 471 4200**  
[www.gro.gov.uk](http://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](http://www.newfamilysocial.co.uk)



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://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](http://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](http://www.postadoptioncentre.org.uk)

# Useful organisations



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

# Nottinghamshire services contact details

## Nottinghamshire Adoption Service

For adoptive parents approved by Nottinghamshire.

**01623 476876**

## Nottinghamshire Adoption Support Services Adviser (ASSA)

**01623 437552**

## 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](http://www.bt.com/pricing)).

**[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)**



Nottinghamshire Adoption Service  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

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

**Nottinghamshire Learning and Development**  
**0115 945 2764**

**Nottinghamshire Senior Educational Psychologist**  
**0115 878 3598**

**Nottinghamshire Support After Adoption**  
General enquiries: **01623 437223**

Telephone advice line: **01623 437988**

Letterbox enquiries: **01623 437232**

Email: **support.afteradoption@nottscg.gov.uk**

**Nottinghamshire Virtual Headteacher**  
**01623 434149**

## **Nottinghamshire services contact details**



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

# Feedback

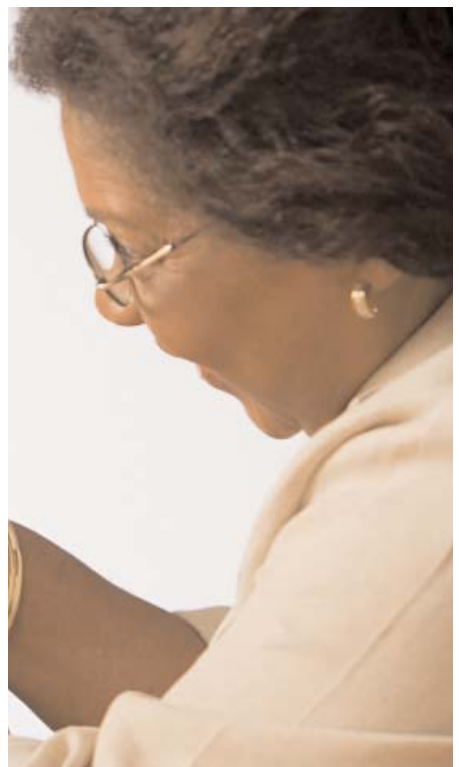
We hope you find the information in this booklet useful and would welcome feedback or suggestions to improve it.

Write to:

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



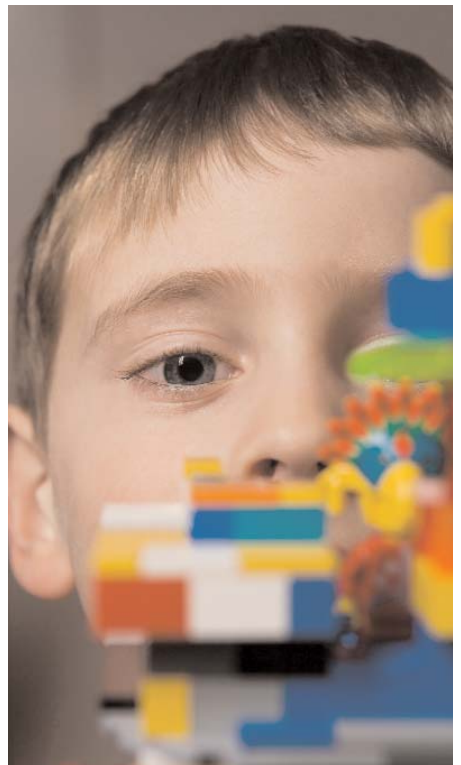
**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)



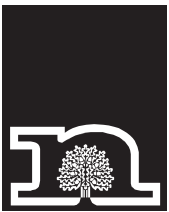
# Notes



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)



**Nottinghamshire Adoption Service**  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)



**Contacting us**

**email** [adoption@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption)

**May 2009**