

Children's Statement of Purpose

What do we do?

We help and support children who need new families to look after them because they cannot live with their birth parents. We provide services for everyone involved in adoption; children, birth parents and people who would like to adopt a child (from this country or from another country). The Children's Guide will help you understand adoption and what it means for you.

What do we want to do?

This year we want to help more children who are being looked after by the council find new families. We want it to take less time for children to be placed with adoptive families by working closely with children, birth families and adoptive families to deal with any problems that they may face. Finally, we aim to provide lots of different services to adoptive families to support them before, during and after adoption and make sure placements are a success.

What do we believe in?

In the Richmond Adoption Service we promise to put children's needs first. We will make sure that personal information is kept private, treat everyone involved with equal respect and take into account the needs of people from different backgrounds. We want it to be as easy as possible for people to contact us and will try and respond as quickly as possible with the support they need. We will regularly check our services are working well and listen to the views of the people who use our services so that it is even better in the future.

Who works for the Adoption Service and who do we work with?

The people that work for the Adoption Service are specially trained and have a lot of experience in adoption. Social workers are involved in preparing and supporting adoptive parents and making sure that they can meet the needs of the children waiting to be adopted. The team also provide support, advice, training and help getting hold of other services. There are lots of teams within the Children and Families division of Richmond Council and we work together to provide a complete service to children and families in need. We also work with other services involved with children such as health, education and other adoption agencies.

How do we put new families together?

When children have been looked after for four months, social workers hold a meeting to consider what would be best for their future, including adoption. These meetings are held regularly to make sure that children's needs are met and they do not stay in the care system for any longer than they need to. Children needing new families come from many different backgrounds and the Adoption Team try to make sure that adoptive parents can share or support a child's life story. We measure whether people are ready to be adopt by using guidelines produced by the adoption organisation BAAF and the Department for Education. We try to make sure that people who want to adopt are assessed in less than six months so they can start finding their new families as soon as possible.

How to tell us if you are not happy about the service

If you are not happy about anything that has happened to you then you should let your social worker know. If it is about the Adoption Team then you can contact the Adoption Manager or the Complaints Manager at Richmond Council. There are also groups that help children get their voices heard; addresses for all of these people are listed on the next page.

Useful addresses and contacts

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Manager of the Adoption Service

Ms Katie Law
Adoption and Permanency Service,
42 York Street,
Twickenham
TW1 3BW

Email: katie.law@richmond.gov.uk
Phone: 020 8831 6137

Principal Manager Children Looked After and Leaving Care

Mr Mike Ferguson
42 York Street,
Twickenham
TW1 3BW

Email: m.ferguson@richmond.gov.uk
Phone: 020 8891 7679

Ofsted

Ofsted is the body responsible for the inspection of local authorities' social care departments and all adoption services.

Ofsted

National Business Unit
Royal Exchange Building
St Anne's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

Phone: 08456 40 40 40

Children's Rights Officer

Roger Morgan
Ofsted
Alexander House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

Phone: 020 7421 6800

London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames Adoption Service

Other organisations and useful links

British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF)

Saffron House
6-10 Kirby Street
London
EC1N 8TS

Phone: 020 7421 2600
Email: mail@baaf.org.uk
Website: www.baaf.org.uk

Department of Schools, Children and Families Adoption Web pages

Website: www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/adoption

Adoption UK

46 The Green
South Bar Street
Banbury
OX16 9AB

The office is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm.
Phone: 01295 752240