

Create a family,
Adopt



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

www.haringey.gov.uk



Haringey Council

What is adoption?

Adoption is a way of giving a child a new and permanent family because they cannot be brought up by their parents.





Is there a big difference between adoption and fostering?

Yes. If you adopt a child, all the rights and responsibilities for that child are permanently and legally given to you.

With fostering, most children will return home after a period of time although some carers do foster long-term.

Foster carers share responsibility for the children they foster, with the local authority and with the parents of those children. For more information, see our leaflet, 'Fostering in Haringey'.

Frequently asked questions

What kinds of children need to be adopted?

Children of all ages and from a wide range of ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds: brothers and sisters and children with physical disabilities, learning difficulties, or both.

Who can apply?

We welcome applicants of any nationality, race, religion, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Applicants can also be atheist or agnostic.

Do I have to be a certain age to adopt?

No. We are flexible about age although by law you must be over 21 to apply to adopt. We do not have an upper age limit, but applicants should have the potential to care for a child throughout his or her childhood and offer support for some time beyond.

Do I have to own my own home?

No. It doesn't matter whether you own or rent your home, but you will need to have a spare room for your adopted child.

Do I have to live in the UK?

You must be domiciled in the UK. Domicile is not the same as nationality, but refers to the applicant's long-term home.

I am not married could I still adopt?

Yes. It is possible for a single person or an unmarried couple – heterosexual, gay or lesbian, to apply to adopt. Our main requirement is that you are able to meet the needs of the individual children and that couples are in a long term, stable relationship. Some children will benefit from being adopted by a couple, with or without children of their own. Others may gain more from one-to-one attention of a single person.

Does it matter if I am on a low income?

No, although you will have to show that your income can meet the needs of your adopted child. Once the child has been placed with you

for adoption you will be eligible for Child Benefit. Children who are likely to be more expensive to look after, such as brothers and sisters or children with disabilities may be eligible for an adoption allowance.



Will the child live with me before I legally adopt him or her?

There is a detailed assessment and matching process prior to a child coming to live with you. Once a child is placed with you, you can apply for an adoption order after a minimum of 10 weeks.

You can wait longer than this before applying to the court, to give you and the child a chance to settle down together.

You would need to talk this through with your adoption social worker, who will help you with your application.

What is an Adoption Order?

An Adoption Order is the legal order granted to you by a court which gives you sole and irreversible responsibilities for your adopted child. Every effort is made to make this a friendly and welcoming process.

Can I adopt a child who is from a different culture?

We make every effort to place

children in families who broadly reflect the child's racial and cultural background.

From our experience, a family who reflects a child's background is in the best position to help that child grow up with a positive sense of identity. Only when this is not possible, would we consider families from a different background who were willing and able to promote a child's heritage.

What are my chances of adopting a baby?

People thinking about adopting often want to adopt a baby. The number of babies placed for adoption today is quite small so this may not be a possibility. We will be able to tell you what the current situation is when you contact us.

What will I need to do once I've applied?

You need to attend an adoption preparation group and participate in an assessment. This will give you an opportunity to think through all the implications of going ahead with adoption.

What support do I get through the process?

One of our adoption social workers will be allocated to you when we receive your formal application to adopt.

This social worker will undertake your assessment and continue to support you through the adoption process.

How long does it take?

The whole assessment process, from receiving your application to presenting the final report to the Adoption Panel, takes about eight months.



Adoption Support Services

What kind of help can I expect?

We are aware of the challenges facing adoptive parents and the need for support for you and your child/children as they grow up. Our Adoption Support Service will help you access relevant support, which might include some form of financial help, contact arrangements, counselling or therapeutic help. Please see our booklet 'Adoption Support Services in Haringey'.

What if my adopted child wants to trace his or her birth mother?

Everyone is curious about who they are. From the age of 18, adopted children have the right to their original birth certificate if they want it. We know from experience that it is helpful to be open with children from the beginning and to explain their

past as honestly and positively as possible. These days adopters need to be prepared to support a child to understand where they came from and to continue to have at least annual letterbox contact with their birth family. Most adopters see this as positive and believe that it brings them closer to their adopted child.

Will I receive help with this?

You will receive help with this from the Adoption Support Service and can explore it further in your training and preparation group.

About Checks and References

Haringey Council, of which Haringey Fostering & Adoption is part, has a legal responsibility to ensure that the best possible plans are made for the children in our care. Once you decide that you would like to adopt, you undergo a very thorough assessment process. Part of this process involves medical and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks on you and other members of your household and family.

Applicants will not be automatically excluded if they have had problems with the law, but we need to understand the circumstances at the time and any likely implications for the future. Violent offences will generally disqualify applicants unless there are special circumstances.

The CRB check is only used for your adoption assessment. Details will not be disclosed to your employer or to authorities dealing with housing or social benefits.

We will also need

Three personal references who know you well in different aspects of your life:

- one member of your family
- your employer
- if you have had significant previous relationships, particular where you have been involved in parenting a child, where appropriate we are required to seek their views on you becoming an adoptive parent.

I am interested what do I do now?

Ring 020 8489 4610 or email fostering.adoption@haringey.gov.uk, giving us your contact details. The duty social worker will be available to discuss your interest and answer any questions about the adoption process. We will also send you an information pack. If you still wish to proceed and we agree that you meet our initial criteria, we will arrange for a social worker to visit you at home.

Your assessment as a potential adoptive parent will start once you have completed and returned an application form, which you will receive after attending one of our preparation groups.

Haringey Adoption Service is committed to placing children and assessing adopters as quickly as possible but we need to be sure that you and your prospective child are properly prepared. Thorough preparation is an essential part of the process. We want to help to make adoption a successful and happy experience for you and your child.



**If at any point
you would like
more information,
please contact:**

**Haringey Adoption Service
40 Cumberland Road
Wood Green
London
N22 7SG**

Telephone: **020 8489 4610**

Email:

fostering.adoption@haringey.gov.uk

Shqip

Kjo fletushkë është mbi Adoptimin në Haringey. Nëse e doni këtë të përkthyer në gjuhën tuaj, ju lutem plotësoni formularin dhe dërgojeni tek adresa falas e dhënë.

Polski

Niniejsza publikacja zawiera informacje na temat adopcji w Haringey. Aby otrzymać jej wersję w języku polskim należy wypełnić formularz i przesłać go na podany adres zwolniony od opłaty pocztowej.

Français

Ce prospectus traite de l'Adoption à Haringey. Si vous souhaitez qu'il soit traduit dans votre langue, veuillez remplir le coupon et le renvoyer à l'adresse fournie (inutile de timbrer l'enveloppe).

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Warqaddani waxay ku saabsantahay Korsashada carruurta aadan dhalin ee Haringey. Haddii aad rabto in lagu tarjumo luqaddaada, fadlan buuxi foomka oo ku soo celi cinwaanka boostiisu lacag la'aanta yahay ee lagu siiyay.

Kurdî Kurmancî

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Türkçe

Bu broşür Haringey de Evlatlık Edinmek ile ilgilidir. Eğer bu bilgilerin kendi dilinize çevrilmesini istiyorsanız lütfen formu doldurun ve verilen ücretsiz posta adresine geri gönderin.

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