

# PACT Adopter Champions Service



Hi my name is Megan,

I am PACT's Adopter Champion Team Leader. When you contact us I will put you in touch with the most appropriate adopter champion.

Adopter champions are parents who have adopted children and have built up a wealth of experience and in-depth knowledge of the adoption process and hands-on experience of the joys and challenges of raising adopted children.

We are not social workers or counsellors but we are here to offer other adopters and prospective adopters support on a range of issues, including:

- Adopting siblings
- Adopting older children
- Single parent adoption
- LGBT adoption
- Behavioural support, such as eating, sleeping, aggression, anxiety, regression and general behaviour that is deemed as challenging
- Helping children to understand their own story and revisiting this at different ages
- Educational support in nursery and school settings
- Accessing funding for your child



We can draw on the advice and support of PACT's FACTS and Strengthening Families teams so can also help you access more expert support if you need it.

**We want to support you at every stage of your journey.**

See overleaf to find out more about each of our adopter champions and the expertise experience they offer.



To speak to an adopter champion please ask your social worker, call 0300 456 4800 or email [adoptionssupport@pactcharity.org](mailto:adoptionssupport@pactcharity.org)

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## Megan



Megan is married to Charles and has two sons, her birth son is aged 19 and her adopted son is aged 17. She has 11 years of adoption experience. Megan can help if you have children with early developmental trauma or attachment disorder, problems in school or if you are considering home-educating as well as the puberty years, the teens and between.

*"Think of adoption as a journey and focus on the end goal - a well-adjusted young adult capable of achieving the best that they can achieve. That journey may not be plain sailing but with you as a consistent parent, there championing your child, supporting them to heal and achieve, you will be surprised at just how far your child can develop."*

## Mark



Mark with his partner Laurence adopted a sibling group four years ago, a brother and sister who are now nine and 10 years old. Mark is a specialist teacher for looked after/adopted children and in special educational needs who can assist you in navigating the education system. He can also help in answering questions about LGBT+ and sibling adoption.

*"Having two children move in with us and to become their parents has been completely life changing. Despite the challenges and hurdles along the way, every day we are thankful for the joys that our children bring to our lives and those magic moments of being proud parents."*

## Sue



Sue is married to Jim and she has nine adopted children. Her children are aged between 18 and 38 and she has 29 years of adoption experience.

*"Adoption has been the most amazing roller-coaster of ups and downs that has taught me so much. Even when things are tough I try to focus on the end game of helping my children to heal and become well-adjusted, functioning and happy adults. I have learned that this journey is a marathon, not a sprint and that as a family we can achieve much. I am happy to support adopters as they navigate their journey, however challenging it might be."*

## Neil



Neil and his wife Siân have two adopted biologically unrelated children aged 13 and 17. Neil has 16 years' experience of adoption and also brings his experience of working in adult mental health as a social worker. He is able to help families with adjusting to having a child with additional needs and has extensive experience advocating for appropriate services for his children.

*"I have found the adoption journey one of challenging and rethinking my parenting, with the rewards of seeing how changing approach brings changes and rewards for our children. Caring for our children is also about giving time and care to ourselves, enabling us to parent therapeutically. It is not an easy journey, but it is a joy to see our children grow as very different but unique young people with so much potential."*



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