# Parents And Children Together Adoption Support

# Supporting PACT adoptive families for life

PACT understands that all adopters and their children will need support from time to time. We want to help you to help `your children develop to their full potential, so we provide a range of support services for adopters and their children.

*"It's made such a difference knowing there is real support out there from people who have lived it, and totally understand our family situation."* 

A family after using CATCH

#### Children And Trauma Community Hub (CATCH)

CATCH is an online 24/7 service to provide support and **empower** adoptive parents when they need it most. It is available free to PACT families; visit **catchconnect.org** to request a login.



The service provides adopter peer support through online webchat and an adopter forum as well as learning opportunities though webinars, eLearning and resources on a wide range of topics.

CATCH helps to improve confidence in parenting abilities, offers support outside of normal working hours and enables adopters to **support each other** in a safe, confidential and managed environment.

### **Adopter Champions**

PACT has a team of adoptive parents trained to provide **mentoring** and support for people in the adoption process or families postplacement. Email **adoptionsupport@pactcharity.org** to request a call with an Adopter Champion. *"Sometimes you need someone who gets it, who's not a friend trying to say the right thing and getting it oh so wrong. The Strengthening Families Team get it!"* 

### Strengthening Families Team

PACT's own therapeutically-trained social workers offer a **speedy response** to PACT adoptive families who need support.

Families Team get it!" A PACT family after support from the Strengthening Families Team



This can include helping adoptive families prepare for placement, exploring behaviours which are difficult to manage and providing strategies for adopters, working with families to determine what is behaviour and what is trauma and liaising with other professionals to ensure cohesive support.

The Strengthening Families Team can also assist with adoption support fund applications, provide an assessment of support needs and work alongside schools to support the child's education.

Families can be **referred by their social worker** pre or post-placement. Sometimes families may need support several years after an adoption order is made, in this case they can self-refer by emailing **adoptionsupport@pactcharity.org**.



**f y a**pactcharity | www.pactcharity.org 0300 456 4800 | adoptionsupport@pactcharity.org



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#### Family and Children Therapeutic Support (FACTS)

Some children have experienced **complex trauma** prior to being placed for adoption. FACTS is PACT's award-winning therapeutic support service tailored to meet the needs of individual children and young adults traumatised by their early experiences. The FACTS service supports children and their families to help them achieve their full potential.

The range of therapy services includes (but is not limited to) **Theraplay®**, **clinical psychology**, **Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy** (**DDP**), **therapeutic life journey work**, **creative play therapy and psychotherapy**.

"Thank you all for being amazing and going above and beyond! I don't think we would have got this far without the psychotherapist working with S."

A family after using FACTS

The FACTS service is open to PACT families. The cost for the therapeutic services can be met by:

- The local authority responsible for the child; or
- The Adoption Support Fund; or
- The adopters themselves

There is a small bursary available to PACT adopters which ensures no family goes without a service purely on grounds of cost. To access FACTS please email **facts@pactcharity.org**.

## Other support for PACT families

PACT runs **therapeutic parenting courses** designed to promote attachments and strengthen family relationships. Other training provided by PACT covers a range of topics such as *Keeping Adopted Children Safe Online, Supporting Your Child in School* and *Responding To Difficult Behaviour*. Find out more at **pactcharity.org/training**.

PACT holds **adoption activity Events** which are creative therapeutic sessions for children and **adopter support groups** for parents to make links with each other and to share experiences. See more at **pactcharity.org/support-adopters** and **pactcharity.org/support-adoptees**.

Once a year, PACT also runs **Family Fun Days** for all its adoptive families. The events are a chance for families to get together and share stories, make friends and have a fun day out!

PACT has a **Specialist Education Service** to support families and help meet their child's unique educational needs. See **pactcharity.org/education**.





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