

Details of the child's sessions will remain confidential unless the child (and parents or carers if directly involved) give permission for such material to be shared, or if a Child Protection issue arises. In such circumstances, the child's social worker and/or the appropriate Safeguarding Service will be immediately informed with the child's knowledge of this action.



## **Services to Looked After Children, Kinship Care and Special Guardianship**

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Although the service has developed initially as a resource for adoption practitioners, the agency recognises that there are many parallel themes in the placement of children in Foster Care, Kinship Care and Special Guardianship and therefore referrals are welcome in relation to these wider groups.

## **Fees**

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A list of fees is available upon request.

## **Contact Details**

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For further information, please contact:

**Adoption Matters Northwest**  
**14 Liverpool Road, Chester, Cheshire, CH2 1AE**

**t: 01244 390938 f: 01244 390067**

**e: [info@adoptionmattersnw.org](mailto:info@adoptionmattersnw.org)**

**[www.adoptionmattersnw.org](http://www.adoptionmattersnw.org)**

## **Acknowledgement**

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Adoption Matters Northwest acknowledges Change Direction Limited for developing this service.

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# **Assessment, Therapy and Counselling**

**A new service for adopted children, young people and their families**

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## **Adoption Matters Northwest.....**

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is a specialist voluntary adoption agency which operates in the north west of England and north east Wales.

The agency has a history of almost 60 years. Since being established, nearly 4,000 children have been placed with adoptive families, and the agency has been at the forefront of innovation in adoption service development.

The agency has well established services in relation to the placement and support of adopted children. The agency now plans to extend this service to include a specialised Assessment, Therapeutic and Counselling Service for adopted children, young people and their families. The service has been developed in recognition of the increasingly complex needs of children currently being placed for adoption.

## **What will the Service provide?**

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The Service will provide a regional network of professionally trained and qualified therapists and counsellors who will work with the agency to offer specialist services to Local Authorities or adoptive families. The services can be offered at any point in the adoption process in order to best meet the needs of the child or family. The team has particular expertise in working with children in relation to trauma and attachment issues. Examples might include:

- A detailed assessment by a therapist to clarify whether adoption is in the best interests of the child;
- A detailed assessment by a therapist of the needs of sibling groups;
- Acting as an Expert Witness in court proceedings;
- Preparation by a therapist of the child for placement.
- Advice in relation to moving the child from short term to permanent carers.

The therapists also have skills in stress management, anger management, bereavement and relationship counselling. They use both directive and non-directive therapeutic processes, the method chosen being dependent upon the needs of the individual child and the specific work which is being undertaken.

The therapists and counsellors provide sessions, usually of one hour's duration on a weekly basis. This is adapted to best suit the child, parents and their situation. The therapist will meet with the child in a location convenient to the family.

## **Professional Ethics**

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All the therapists and counsellors function within the Code of Ethics of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists or the United Kingdom Council of Psychotherapy. All hold appropriate professional qualifications and are accredited to their specific professional body (details can be provided on request). They are provided with the required level and standard of supervision and hold Professional Indemnity Insurance.

## **Working within the Professional Network**

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The therapeutic team are also committed to working with social workers, teachers and other professionals who may be involved with the child. They will be pleased to offer consultancy and/or to work alongside others, and to attend planning meetings and reviews, providing any necessary reports requested.

## **Records and Reports**

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A full report will be provided on completion of a requested assessment and, in the case of ongoing work, at regular intervals as the work progresses. Reports will be provided on request for a Statutory Review and at any other time as may be required, for example for court proceedings.