

Records and Reports

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.

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.

Fees

A list of fees is available upon request.

Contact Details

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

www.adoptionmattersnw.org

Acknowledgement

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



Assessment, Therapy & Counselling Service

Information for Guardians & Solicitors

Adoption Matters Northwest.....

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 now plans to develop a specialised Assessment, Therapeutic and Counselling Service. The agency recognises that there is a wide range of children and young people who could benefit from this service. The service will be offered to adopted children but also Looked After children, children living in Kinship Care or with Special Guardians.

What will the Service provide?

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, parents or carers. The services can be offered at any point in the planning process in order to best meet the needs of the child, young person or family. The team has particular expertise in acting as an Expert Witness. They also have particular experience in working with children in relation to trauma and attachment issues. The service could include:

- A detailed assessment by a therapist to assist in the formulation of the Care Plan for an individual child or young person. This might include assessment of therapeutic needs or advice in relation to long term planning issues.
- A detailed assessment by a therapist of the needs of sibling groups;
- Providing individual therapy and counselling for a child or young person;
- Therapeutic services to support children within the Education System;
- Therapeutic services for carers in relation to the personal impact of caring for troubled children;
- Group work with children and young people;

- A consultation service for social workers in relation to the planning, delivery and support of placements.

Who are the therapists?

The therapists and counsellors come from a wide variety of therapeutic backgrounds including play therapy, person centred therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy, counselling etc.

Many of the children and young people they work with suffer from attachment related problems and dyadic developmental attachment therapy and trauma therapy form a major part of their work.

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

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

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.