

Adoption Support Service

Prevalence in Barnet / nationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2012 3450 children were adopted from care, just 70 of those were babies. (Figures from BAAF) • In 2012 11 children were adopted in Barnet. This year it is likely to be 19 children.
How might this group be vulnerable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the attachment model, adopted children have broken attachments. This means that they are likely to have insecure attachments for the rest of their lives. • Many adopted children are born addicted to substances. • In 2012 the average age at adoption was three years and eight months of these children 72% were placed for adoption due to abuse or neglect, 12% due to family dysfunction, 6% because the birth family was in acute stress. That means that ninety per-cent of our adopted children have experienced less than optimal and probably very stressful early experiences. • (Figures from BAAF) Kate Cairns (2012) indicates that adopted children have (on average experienced at least 10 such instances.
What is the impact / consequence of that vulnerability?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selwyn, Quinton and Sturgess (2002) – 130 children that were due to be adopted of these 95% had at least one special need and more than half of the children having four special needs. These included; developmental delay, behavior problems, attachment difficulties, poor concentration, hyper activity, enuresis, encopresis and physical disabilities. • Rushton and Dance (2006) found that children adopted from care in the U.K were likely to have some behavioural difficulties even six years after placement. • They are often over represented in mental health settings. They can be more difficult to parent and are more likely to be excluded from school. They can have difficulty in

	<p>relationships and struggle to cope with change and transition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research estimates adoptions breakdown is between 11 -23%.
Common signals of risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyper vigilance • Aggression • Anxiety/ Controlling Behaviour • Insecure attachment • Under achievement at school • Behaviour problems at school and at home • Poor relationships • Unhappiness • Confusion about the past • Adoption breakdown • Poor mental health
Who might notice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents • Teachers • Adoption Support Social Workers • CAMHs
Sources of support in Barnet or nationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption Support Service • Post Adoption Centre • CAMHs (Adoption/Children in Care team) • Family Futures • Adoption UK • BAAF • Adoption Plus
Relevant links	<p>British Adoption and Fostering www.baaf.org.uk/</p> <p>Adoption U.K http://www.adoptionuk.org/</p> <p>Post Adoption Centre http://pac.org.uk/</p> <p>Coram http://www.coram.org.uk/</p>