

### Useful contact details:

#### After Adoption,

16 Waltons Parade,  
Preston,  
Lancashire,  
PR1 8QT

Tel: (01772) 258893  
Birth ties 24 hour helpline – 0800 840 2020  
[www.afteradoption.org.uk](http://www.afteradoption.org.uk)

#### The General Register Office

Adoptions  
Smedley Hydro  
Trafalgar Road  
Southport, PR8 2HH

Tel: (0151) 4714830  
[www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

If you would like to access adoption support services in Blackburn with Darwen Council, or have any questions about the support that is available please contact our Post Adoption Support Social workers.

Blackburn with Darwen Council Adoption Support contact details:

#### Adoption Team

Children's Services Department  
The Exchange – Link 3B  
Ainsworth Street  
Blackburn  
BB1 6AD

Tel no: (01254) 666806  
Blackburn with Darwen Website: [www.urbwd.com](http://www.urbwd.com)



# Blackburn with Darwen Adoption support services

## Information for birth families



Having a child adopted is difficult and you're likely to feel the emotional effects for a long time. Dates or events associated with the adoption and this period in your life can be upsetting but there is help available. Blackburn with Darwen Council provides advice and support to birth relatives of children who are placed for adoption.

### What support will I receive?

If you are a birth relative of a child in Blackburn with Darwen and adoption is the care plan, there is an independent organisation who we work closely with called After Adoption, and they provide support to anyone affected by adoption. We will give you a leaflet with the contact details for After Adoption and will refer you to the organisation (or you can contact them yourself if you prefer) so you can access their independent counselling service.

After Adoption, also provides support groups for birth parents who have had children adopted and one to one drop in sessions both of which are available for you to attend, where you can receive support and advice about adoption.

Blackburn with Darwen Adoption Support Team is also available to answer any questions and to offer support.

### Will I get help with mailbox contact?

Blackburn with Darwen Adoption Support Team will take responsibility for the Co-ordination of contact; we recognise that it can be difficult writing letters; we can meet with you to give support and advice with writing letters for the adopted child. We will review contact arrangements and where necessary help with renegotiating contact arrangements.

### What if I want to trace in the future?

If you are the birth parent, brother or sister or other relative of someone over 18 who was adopted, and are thinking of looking for information about them or getting in touch, Blackburn with Darwen Adoption Support Team can give you advice about services available to help you make contact. After Adoption can provide this service which is known as an 'intermediary service', this means tracing an adopted person, asking them if contact from a birth relative would be welcomed and if so, helping to arrange contact. After Adoption will charge for this service, further information is available from After Adoption.

We can also provide you with further information about the Adoption Contact Register.

