

Dear adopter

Firstly, congratulations on being approved as an adopter!

Part of your on-going support plan will be referral to the Mentoring Scheme. This matches you with an experienced adopter who has the same type of background & experiences. They are trained mentors & volunteer their time to be part of the scheme.

Below is an outline of how the scheme works & what you can expect from your mentor.

* The scheme is designed to support you from approval through to a few weeks after placement.
* The standard support level is based on 1 voice or video call per week, but this can be tailored to your needs with the agreement of the mentor
* We try to avoid text-based conversations where possible.
* Mentors will call at a pre-arranged day & time. If either you or the mentor need to change this, a text message can be sent to rearrange.
* Mentors are there to chat to, help you solve problems/concerns & be an emotional reassurance.
* They can offer you their ‘lived experiences’.
* They can guide & signpost you to various resources & support.
* They will encourage you to speak to your social worker about any concerns you may have.
* All conversations are confidential, however if the mentor has safeguarding concerns or feels you may benefit from additional services or support, they are required to inform the Mentoring Support Adviser, but they will tell you if they need to do this.
* If you need to contact your mentor between calls, you may do so by text message. Please do not call them.
* All our mentors are adopters with children, jobs & commitments so therefore will not be available 24/7 & will need to fit their support around family life.
* When you & your mentor feel that you no longer need the support from the scheme, the sessions will conclude & your mentor will move on to support a new family.
* After the mentoring sessions have concluded, you will be asked to complete an online feedback form to help us improve the service.

If you have any feedback, questions or concerns please speak to your social worker or email the Mentoring Support Adviser: apsementoring@kent.gov.uk

We hope you find the scheme beneficial & wish you the best of luck in your adoptive family.

**Adoption Partnership Mentoring Scheme**