

APPENDIX 1

Southwark Adoption Charter

Southwark Council believes in giving children the best start in life. We want our children and young people to thrive in safe healthy and stable environments where they have the opportunity to grow, make choices and feel in control of their lives and future. This ambition holds true for each and every child including our looked after children.

Southwark Council, through its Adoption Service, promises to:

Encourage people to adopt by emphasising the joys of adoption while being open about the difficulties vulnerable children experience.

Listen to the experiences of adoptive and birth parents to make sure services can respond helpfully to the needs of adopted children and their parents, and that we can continually improve our offer of help and support.

Strive to complete assessments in six months while allowing flexibility for adopters to lead the process.

Make sure children are matched quickly and that they have a life story book which helps them to understand their background and how they came to be adopted.

Ensure the service considers national and ethnic differences but that this does not cause delay for the child.

Support children and families all the way through the process and respond sensitively to their requests for help and advice.

Communicates clearly with prospective adopters so that they understand the approval process and what is expected of them.

Provides a strong post adoption support offer which clearly sets out what adoptive parents are entitled to.