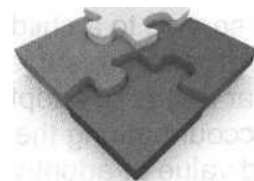


Play Therapy Services

Statement of Purpose



This statement is informed by:

- Children's Act 1989 & 2004 (and accompanying regulations and guidance)
 - Data Protection Act 1998
 - The Human Rights Act 1998
 - Care Standards Act 2000
 - Adoption and Children Act 2002 (and associated regulations and guidance)
 - The Adoption Support Agencies (England) and Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2005
 - The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 with 2005 amendments
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children 2015, updated 2017
 - Statutory Guidance on Adoption: Chapter 9: Adoption Support Services (updated 2013)
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- Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011, updated 2014 **1**

Values, aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the service are to provide therapeutic support to adopted children and their families. At all times the child's welfare, safety and needs are paramount and are prioritised. The child's carers, and relevant professionals, are fully involved, as the network around the child, to promote the child's emotional functioning and wellbeing.

Services offered are evidence based and of high quality.

The child's wishes and feelings will be actively sought and fully taken into account at all stages of the provision of adoption support.

The child's ethnic origin, cultural background, religion, sexuality and language will be fully recognised and positively valued during the provision of adoption support.

A child adopted from overseas and their adoptive family will receive a comparable service to a child adopted from within the UK.

As will children who are subject of Special Guardianship Orders.

The particular needs of adopted disabled children will be fully recognised and taken into account during the provision of adoption support.

The role and value of adoptive parents in offering a permanent family to a child who cannot live with their birth family will be valued and respected.

Adoptive parents will be at the heart of any planning for adoption support provided to them and/or their children.

The views of adoptive parents will be actively sought and fully taken into account at all stages of the adoption support that is provided to them and/or their children.

The objectives are to:

- Provide a service to maintain adoptive placements wherever possible -
To ensure the child's voice is always heard
- To place safeguarding at the core of all services provided
- Assist children in understanding their life stories
- Acknowledge loss and separation and allow for grieving
- Improve children's self-esteem and self-worth
- Help children with identity issues
- Enhance children's physical and emotional well being
- Help adoptive parents with behavioural issues in promoting positive behaviour and relationships.
- Enhance attachments between parent and child
- To enable children and parents to maintain meaningful contact, wherever possible if placements disrupt.

2 Philosophy and ethos of service

To provide an adoption support service to enable a child to remain (where appropriate) with an adoptive family and ensure that the child reaches their full potential.

To ensure that the adoption support service complies with relevant legislation, regulations and guidance.

To increase the adoption support service's knowledge in new research and developments in adoption support by seeking training and development opportunities with other agencies in the adoption support field of knowledge.

3 Facilities and services provided

The adoption support service offers therapeutic support for children and young people individually or with their parents.

The adoption support service offers therapeutic support for adults - parents, relatives and significant others.

The services offered are tailored to meet the child's needs with the aim to achieve stability and safety for children enabling both adults and children achieve success and stability in their lives.

Therapeutic support for children and young people include individual play therapy, grief and loss work, therapeutic life story work and Eye Movement Desensitisation Reprocessing.

Joint therapeutic support for parent and child includes Theraplay work, Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy, joint attachment-based play and joint narrative work.

Therapeutic support for adults includes consultations regarding specific issues, therapeutic parenting sessions, training events for parents, schools and local authority workers.

Training Courses for adopters, foster carers, Special Guardians and Social Workers
These services can be offered from the adoption support service's office in Weybridge, Surrey or at another suitable venue or in the family's home when appropriate.

The Director of Play Therapy Services is Carol Platteuw.

Carol Platteuw holds the following professional qualifications:

B A (Hons) Social Science obtained in 1980
Certificate of Qualification in Social Work obtained in 1980
Group work training obtained in 1984
Certificate of Family and Marital Therapy obtained in 1992
Diploma in Child Protection obtained in 1995
Post Graduate Diploma in Play Therapy obtained in 2002
Narrative Story Stem Administration training 2003
Introductory Theraplay and MIM training 2003
Level 1 Training Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (Dan Hughes) 2004
Intermediate Theraplay training 2007
Advanced Theraplay training 2009
Sensory Attachment Intervention - Eadaoin Bhreathnach - 2010 The Just Right State
Adult Protocol - Eadaoin Bhreathnach 2011 Certified Theraplay Practitioner 2013 EMDR
Practitioner 2019

Carol Platteuw has the following experience:

Local Authority Social Worker in Inner London in Safeguarding Team.
Social Worker in Fostering and Adoption Team.
Children's Guardian 1986 to 2001 Play Therapist 2001 to date
In 2009 founded Play Therapy Services Ltd, an organisation that provides independent
play therapy assessments and treatment
Approved supervisor for BAPT supervising students and qualified play therapists
Accredited Theraplay practitioner, trainer and supervisor Trainer offering a range of
courses for Local Authorities and Universities on communicating with children
Visiting Lecturer at Roehampton University, Holloway University and Kingston University

Publications

'Play Therapy with Adopted Children' in Narrative Play Therapy Theory and Practice -
edited by Aideen Taylor De Faoite - Jessica Kingsley publications 2011

Children's books for adopted children

Joe gets a new family and starts a new school - Carol Platteuw - Troubador 2017
Rose's difficult Mothers' day - Carol Platteuw - Troubador 2017
A Baby moves in with Leroy and Patsy - Carol Platteuw - Troubador 2017
Sophie and Tom's adoption day - Carol Platteuw - Troubador 2017
Sam's foster family - Carol Platteuw - Troubador 2017

4 Organisational structure of Service

Carol Platteuw is the Director, Manager and clinical lead in the organization. Donna Ellis is the Responsible Individual. The service is a team of therapists. These specialist therapists are termed Associates, they provide a full range of adoption support services to complement and enhance the service to adopters and their children. They are under the supervision of the agency but they are self-employed and not employees of the agency. Lei Lei Chiu is a book keeper and administrator.

5 Number, relevant qualifications and experience of staff

Associates are fully qualified professionals, all of whom are members of professional bodies and all of whom have had additional specialist training in the field of adoption. Associate staff have extensive experience of working with adopted children and their families.

The team members Carol Platteuw

Qualified as a Social Worker in 1980 and a Play Therapist in 2002. Worked in the field of adoption since 2002

Sophie Ashley

Qualified as a Play Therapist in 2015. Worked in the field of adoption since 2016.

Diane Doyle

Qualified as a Play Therapist in 2015. Worked in the field of adoption since 2016.

Donna Ellis

Qualified as a Play Therapist in 2009. Worked in the field of adoption since 2011.

Amanda Hammond

Qualified as a Drama Therapist IN 1989. Worked in the field of adoption since 2018.

Carol Frazier

Qualified as a Social Worker in 2009. Worked in the field of adoption since 2010.

6 Supervision, training and development of staff

Associates are clinically supervised by Carol Platteuw. They are responsible for their own training and development, as required by their professional bodies. Associates are required to undertake updating safeguarding training.

The team often all undertake the same training to ensure the service continually develops skills. In 2022 the team all undertook an introduction to the BUSS model Building Under developed Sensorimotor Systems in children who have experienced developmental trauma.

All of the team undertake regular Safeguarding training.

7 Referral and assessment criteria for service

Referrals are received via the services referral form. The service meets with the child's carers and other involved professionals to build up a picture of the child's situation and current functioning. A contract is then agreed regarding the length of the intervention and time and place where the play therapy will take place. Treatment objectives are agreed, and the service is tailored to the needs of that particular child. Consistency is important and sessions usually take place once a week. The therapy is reviewed at regular intervals when feedback is given to the child's carers.

Outcome measures are used at the beginning and end to quantify progress.

8 Policies and procedures Safeguarding

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs - including historical abuse.
- All children should feel safe. Children should understand how to protect themselves and be protected from significant harm including neglect, abuse and accidents.
- The adoption support service supports adopters to keep their children safe but also encourages adopters to allow the child to take appropriate risks as normal part of growing up.
- The adoption support service will support children to keep themselves safe outside the home and when using the internet and social media.
- The adoption support service will work effectively with agencies concerned with safeguarding e.g. the responsible authority, schools, hospitals, general practitioners, etc. and will not work in isolation from them.
- Service users are informed of the policy and procedures as appropriate. Consent forms clearly state that action is required if a safeguarding issue arises during a therapeutic intervention.
- All concerns and allegations of abuse, including historic abuse, will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately - this may involve a referral to the relevant children's services and in an emergency the police
- Current principles, legislation and guidance will underpin the policy.
- Policy and procedures will be kept under review **See Safeguarding Policy**

10. Fire

All equipment will meet fire safety standards. A fire extinguisher is available and maintained regularly. Evacuation procedures will be explained to all children and adults who will always remain under the supervision of someone from the agency.

11. Health & Safety

All premises used will be suitable for the safe use of children and adults.

The play rooms at the Service's offices are on the first floor, if this is not accessible for anyone with a disability an alternate room will be used. A first aid kit is available and is restocked as required.

Toys used are safe for the age of the child and equipment is regularly inspected for any defects and replaced if necessary. Children will be told at the beginning of therapy and be reminded at appropriate times during, that they, the toys and building and the therapist will kept be safe during therapy.

Any Health & Safety issues will be recorded in an Accident Book and signed by the therapist and the need for any actions noted.

A COVID safety policy was written and implemented to ensure the safety of all service users and therapists.

See Health and Safety Policy

12. Monitoring and evaluating the service

The service provides feedback forms to service users (children and their parents) so that practice can be monitored and evaluated.

At the end of an intervention Outcome Measures are completed.

Referring professionals are invited to reviews so that the service's work is regularly appraised by the Local Authority Social Services Departments to ensure that the services provided are effective and the quality is of a high standard.

13. Complaints

Complaints about any therapist can be made at any time through the complaints form found on the services website or by raising the complaint verbally or in writing to Carol Platteuw. It is hoped that complaints will be dealt with and resolved at an early stage. If this proves not possible independent arbitration is available through an independent, experienced retired play therapist Mary Corrigan.

If the matter is still not resolved to the satisfaction of the child or family, then the complaint can be forwarded to the therapist's professional body.

Complaints can also be sent to OFSTED Enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk Their address is OFSTED, National Business Unit, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD telephone number 0300 123 1231

Information about this complaints procedure will be given to parents at the outset of work on their Parental Agreement Form.

See Complaints policy

14. Equality and diversity

The adoption support service is respectful at all times of a child's ethnic origin, religion, culture, language, sexuality, gender, disability and their experience and understanding of adoption. The service abides by the equal opportunities policy of the Local Authority for whom they are providing play therapy services and the equal opportunities policy of each therapist's Code of Ethics provided by their professional body.

The adoption support service will ensure that if a child has physical, sensory, learning or communication difficulties or their first language is not English that the service will, whenever possible, be adapted to meet these needs. Within play therapy provision this will usually mean that (with the consent of the child) a trusted

and significant adult for that particular child will be present during the play therapy session.

All efforts will be made to accommodate referrals where English is an second language of the family and /or who require an interpreter. Information will be translated into other languages if necessary.

See Equality Policy

15. Storage, access, maintenance and security of adoption records

The adoption support service acknowledges the need to ensure all records are maintained in accordance with the Data Protection Act and the National Minimum Standards for Adoption.

All files are held in lockable, secure storage within premises owned and managed by the Agency.

The service is registered with the Information Commissioners Office.

See GDPR policy

16. In the case of disaster:

Therapeutic services would be offered to children and families in alternative premises. For example; in their own homes, in a school, in a family centre. Information stored on computers is backed up on an external hard drive which is stored off the premises.

Work needed to be done on a computer can be undertaken at home.

The work telephone number can be redirected to the work mobile.

Therapy sessions and meetings can be provided on line - if appropriate.

17. The system for reviewing the Statement of Purpose

The statement of purpose will be annually reviewed to ensure that the parameters of the service meet the service as set out in statement.

18. The address and telephone number of OFSTED

Head office operates from the following address:

Ofsted

Piccadilly Gate Store Street Manchester M1 2WD

Telephone: 0300 123 1231 E-mail: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner for England can be contacted by young people at: Office of the Children's Commissioner Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith St, London, SW1P 3BT Freephone: 0800 528 0731 Website <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/get-advice>

18. Children's Guide requirement outline

Regulations require that each agency shall produce a written guide to the adoption support service (the children's guide) that shall contain a summary of what the adoption support agency sets out to do in a manner appropriate to the child's understanding. Information will also include how to contact the Children's rights director, Ofsted and how to access an independent advocate.

The adoption support service uses BAPT leaflets regarding play therapy and gives children or young people a simple guide to adoption support.

June 2023