

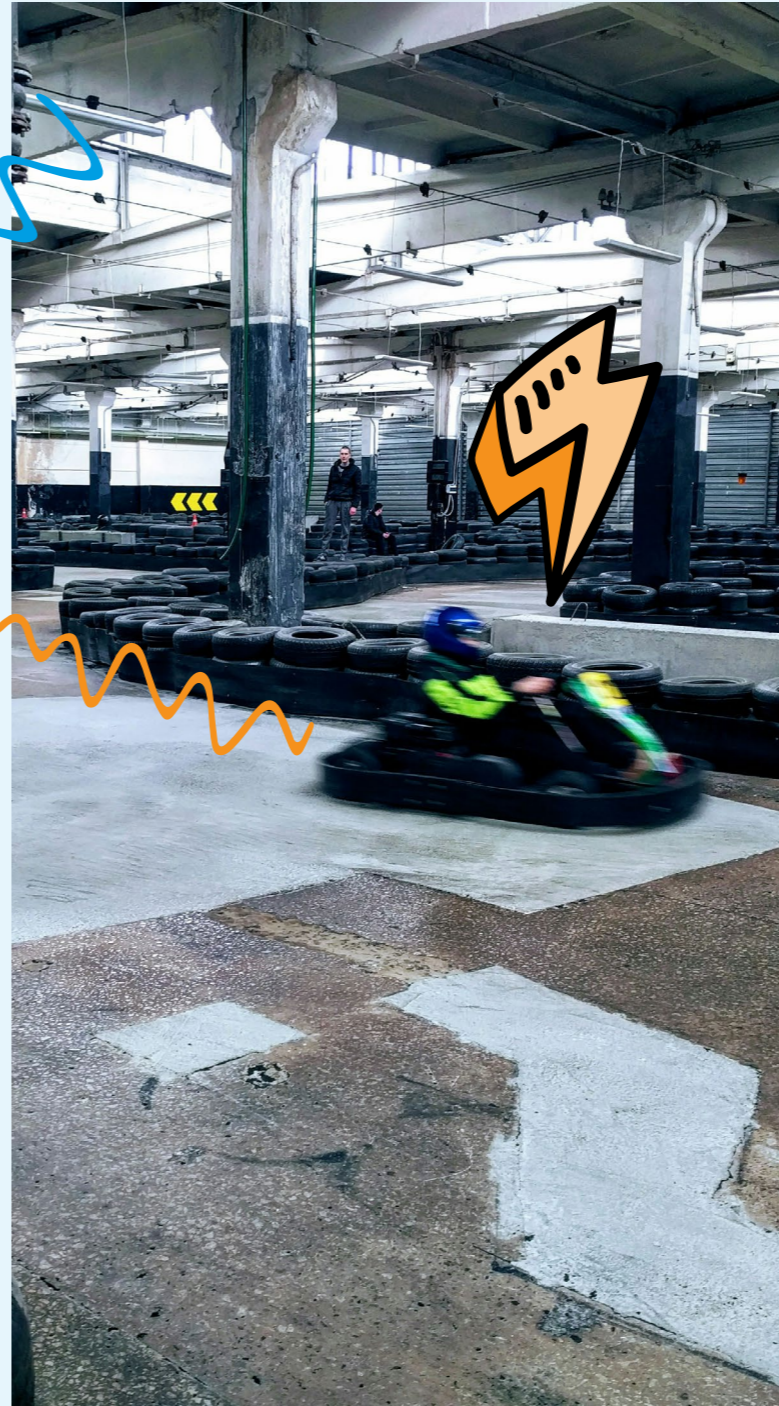
ADOPT TEENS

MEET FRIENDS. MAKE CHANGE.



Adopteens is a service that was **designed by adopted teenagers** who wanted to meet and connect with other adoptees. It was born out of a desire to feel more **connected** with others who have shared similar **life experiences** and, in their words...

...WHO
JUST
GET
IT!



Why We're Different

We encourage you to take advantage of any local adoption groups in your area. However, we know options can be limited. That's where we come in!

By attending both Adopteens and local groups, you'll get the best of both worlds! We aim to collaborate with local partners, not compete.

We're the only non-profit created fully by and for teens like you.

Adopteens is for Anyone who:

- ✓ Is adopted and aged between 11-17.
- ✓ Lives in Bradford, Calderdale, East Riding, Kirklees, Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, North East Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Wakefield and York.
- ✓ Has access to the internet either on their phone or computer.

We give you:

- ✓ Wicked new adventures.
- ✓ Real friends who simply 'get it'.
- ✓ Our exclusive chat space to connect.
- ✓ Serious fun.
- ✓ We even make videos and meet politicians to improve the system. I know!

The best bit? We're led by teens for teens. Oh, and did we mention Go Karting?

SOCIAL EVENTS

Our Adopteens events! We meet up for crazy adventures like waterfall hikes, trampolining, cooking and creativity workshops and more.

They are relaxed, friendly and there is no expectation or pressure to talk about adoption. Come as you are and leave with new friends and great memories.

Many of the young people who attend regularly find it reassuring to hang out with other adopted teens and do something fun. The events are completely free, we just ask that families drop their child off, or the member make their own way to these events.

Previous activities have included:

- ✓ Go Ape, North East Lincolnshire
- ✓ The Deep, Hull
- ✓ Jump Inc, Rotherham
- ✓ Wreath Making Workshop, Batley
- ✓ Chocolate Story, York
- ✓ Waterfall Trail, Ingleton Falls
- ✓ Curry Cooking Workshop, Leeds
- ✓ Theatre Workshop, York
- ✓ Abseiling, Archery and Laser Quest, Doncaster
- ✓ Photography Workshop, Wakefield
- ✓ Snowtubing, Halifax
- ✓ Go Karting, Sheffield

“I’m glad I’ve made some new friends especially on the chat forum on a Wednesday.”

Adopteens member

☺☺

FREE & FUN

NO PRESSURE



SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

We understand the impact adoption has on you, especially as a teenager. We have tons of experience guiding adoptees. Whenever needed, we've got your back with helpful resources.

Website

Our website www.adopteens.org is open to the public and can be accessed by anyone. You can use our website to;

- See upcoming social events and register.
- Access our unique chat forum.
- Learn more about our nationally recognised voice and influence work.
- Access our resources which have all been Co-produced by members of Adopteens.
- Learn about other services for adopted young people.
- Find out about our latest news.

THAT'S COOL!

Chat forum

The chat forum is open to registered members where they can chat with other adopted teens online. It's nice and easy to use and is a space where they can keep in touch with one another.

We run 'Adopteens Chat' sessions - a space where we;

- Encourage members to come online and share posts about themselves.
- Discuss topics that interest members to create interesting conversation and develop friendships.
- Are supported by Adopteens workers who run the chat to support you.
- Don't have to talk about adoption-related stuff, but we are more than happy to respond with our shared knowledge if they are.



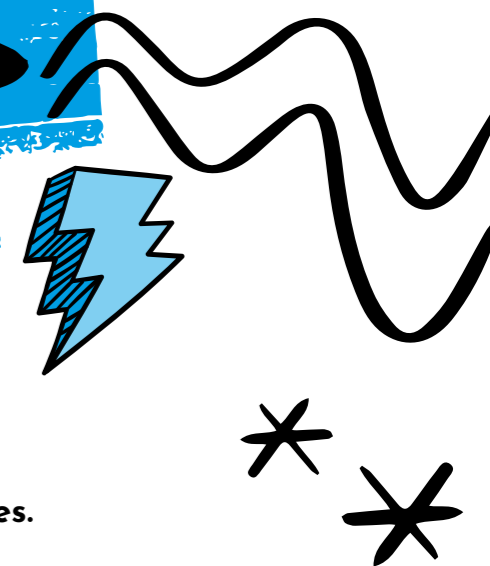
AMPLIFYING OUR VOICES

Adoptees often go unheard. Not here! We create films, talk on the radio, we even make national news. Our Youth Council makes sure people HEAR us. We're proud of the waves we're making to make life better for adoptees.

Youth Council

Our Adopteens Youth Council aims to gather the voices of teenage adoptees on issues affecting them and use this to influence how people understand and work with adoption. We provide members the opportunity to listen to others' views, express themselves (if and when they want to), be creative, build skills, and gain confidence. We've worked on topics such as;

- Adoption-friendly schools.
- Life story work.
- Safe use of social media.
- What they want from social workers.
- What they want prospective adopters to know.



YOUR TEAM



GAIENA

Experience

Gaiena has been part of the Adopteen team since 2016. She has a 20 year-year background in youth work, working with care experienced and adopted young people and their families within a local authority post-adoption support team.

Expertise

Gaiena is a qualified person-centred counsellor with an understanding of issues around adoption from all parties involved.

Passion

Gaiena feels the most precious part of this work is seeing people grow and move forward in their lives with the right environment and support.



TANYA

Experience

Tanya is a qualified Social Worker since 2014 and an adopted adult who's worked with the Adopteens service since 2015 working with teenagers from all over Yorkshire & Humber with the simple aim of helping young people who are adopted build friendships, and if they want to, have an opportunity to improve the system.

Values

Tanya thinks it's important to work with all people who are affected by adoption as it gives her the opportunity to hear people's experiences from all sides.

Passion

Tanya finds the most rewarding part of the work is getting to know people, building relationships and she always learns something new from every person she works with.



JO

Experience

Jo's worked with Adopted young people and their families for over 20 years as both a Child and Family Therapist and Social Worker.

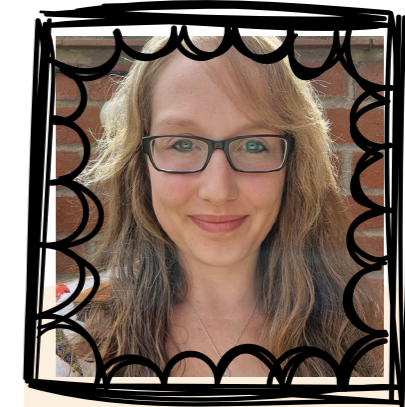
Expertise

Jo is also from a youth work background having delivered art-based projects to children and young people living in rural communities.

Passion

Jo's passionate about the work we do with young people as they help us grow and learn both personally and professionally and their voices are crucial in helping us develop and shape our support services.

"We appreciate all the hard work you do, advocating for and supporting adopted teens." A parent



VIKKI

Experience

Vikki graduated with a BA (Hons) in Health and Social Care in 2020 and has a keen interest in post-adoption support work following her own adoption and reunion experiences.

Expertise

Vikki's dissertation 'An exploration of adult adoptee experiences of adoption through the implementation of a storytelling approach' was published through Bishop Grosseteste University's journal, 'Solertia'.

Passion

Vikki's dissertation catapulted her desire to further explore the means by which voices in adoption can influence service and policy change.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP YOUR CHOICE

Signing up doesn't mean you have to participate in everything! Dip into what suits you. We'll collect basic contact details to notify you of events.

Essentially, you'll be added to our mailing list to receive:

- ✓ Invites to all social events
- ✓ Youth Council opportunities
- ✓ Ways to share your voice.

And just so you know you can involve yourself according to your comfort level. We have no minimum requirements! You remain completely in control. If at any point you wish to not be involved, simply contact us and we will pause or end your membership, which ever you prefer.

Adopteens aims to support adopted teens on their own terms. We meet them where they're at.



About us

PAC-UK is the largest independent adoption support agency in the country and merged with Family Action on 1st December 2018.

Family Action is an award-winning national charity working from the heart of local communities across England and Wales. We've been supporting people through change, challenge and crisis for over 150 years.

We believe family is the key to positive futures, for individuals and communities. We believe there's no right way to be a family, it's relationships that matter.

We know first-hand that our early experiences of family stay with us, for better or worse

PAC-UK was rated Outstanding for the fourth consecutive time by Ofsted in 2022 and was selected as the overall winner in the King's Fund/GSK Impact Awards 2017, for 'Supporting Excellence in Community Health Care'.



If you are interested in our service and you think Adopteens is something the young people in your area would benefit from we would love to talk to you about setting your own service up and how you can commission Adopteens to be developed in your area.

Having seen the success and growth of Adopteens over the last 10 years and the positive impact it has had on members, as well as its influence on professionals and their practice, our passion is to create a national network of regional Adopteens services bringing together a powerful, diverse, inclusive and connected voice please contact us at Adopteens@pac-uk.org

ADOPTTEENS



PAC-UK
Adoption and Permanency Support

We'd love to hear from you



@Adoptedteens_ID



adopteens.org



adopteens@pac-uk.org

Supported by



One
Adoption



Registered Office Address: Family Action Head Office, 34 Wharf Road, London, N1 7GR

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