



Everything you need to know about

“The National Adoption Standards and Lambeth Children & Young People’s Service Statement of Purpose”

What are they?

Well, the National Adoption Standards are rules that say you have to be looked after properly. The ‘Statement of Purpose’ tells you how the Lambeth Children & Young People’s Service are to make sure that everything in this pack happens as it should.

The Statement of Purpose says:

- Your needs, wishes and safety are very important
- We must listen to everything that you have to say and make sure that we know how you are and how you feel. We must write your views and feelings down and always consider them.

The National Adoption Standards are all about what is best for you. They make sure that we care for you in the best way possible.

The National Adoption Standards say that:

- If you cannot live with your birth family, we need to find out if Adoption would be good for you.

- We must make sure that if you are going to be adopted, that you understand why, you understand how adoption happens and how long it will take.
- We must make sure you always have a social worker while you are being adopted and that you know your social worker’s name and how to contact him or her.
- We must make sure that you know and understand all about your birth family and your life before adoption.

You just also know all about your new adoptive family. We and your adoptive family must keep all information about your birth family safe for you until you are old enough to keep it safe yourself.

The National Adoption Standards also make sure that:

- If we don’t agree with you or can’t do what you want, we must listen to your opinions and explain why we don’t agree with you. We will also keep a written record of your views, whether we agree and if we do not, then what the reasons are.



There are lots of other things in the National Adoption Standards we must do like...

- Make sure you don't have to wait a long time for a 'perfect family'. We must make sure that we find a family that can care for all your needs.
- We have to try to find families from all sorts of different backgrounds, like those of the children who need to be adopted, including their race, culture, language and religion and whether they can look after brothers and sisters who need to live together.
- We must make sure that you continue to see or have contact with your grandparents, uncles and aunts and brothers and sisters if this is in your best interests.
- We must also think about whether or not it would be good for you to have contact with your mother and father.
- We must also make sure that if you do not see any of these relatives, that whenever possible you will receive letters, photos or information about them. We have a leaflet that explains how this is arranged. We must write any arrangements like this in your Adoption Plan and let you know if the Adoption Plan changes.
- We must always make sure that you have the help and support that you need, especially with anything to do with your health, education, race, religion, language and hobbies.
- We must make sure that if you want to see your files when you are old enough to understand them that we have kept them safe and help you to see what they say.
- We must make sure that while you are being adopted you have the support you need and know what is going on as soon as possible. Also that after you are adopted, everyone knows who to ask for support and advice, especially if there are any problems.
- We must make sure that you know how to complain if you need to and help you to complain if you wish to. You will find a leaflet in this pack about this to help you.

So, the National Adoption Standards are to make sure you are kept safe, that you are well looked after and that ALL your needs are met in the best possible way.