



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S GUIDE TO THE LAMBETH ADOPTION PANEL.

THE INFORMATION IN THIS LEAFLET
HAS BEEN PUT TOGETHER TO HELP
YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THE
ADOPTION PANEL IS ALL ABOUT.

THE ADOPTION PANEL – WHAT IS IT?

The Adoption Panel is run by Lambeth Council. It is a group of adults who meet together regularly to make recommendations about children being adopted.

They discuss things like

- Whether the best plan for a child is adoption.
- Which adults are suitable to be adopters.
- Which adopters and children are best suited to each other.

WHO IS ON THE ADOPTION PANEL?

The government explains to Lambeth who is suitable to be on an Adoption Panel so that the Panel has a mixture of people with different experiences. For example a Panel is likely to include – a social worker, a Lambeth councillor, a doctor and at least 3 independent adults who have experience of adoption themselves (who do not work for Lambeth CYPS and are not related to anyone working for Lambeth CYPS). The Adoption Panel should be about 10 people altogether. No less than 5 of them meeting to discuss a case.

HOW OFTEN DOES THE ADOPTION PANEL MEET?

The Adoption Panel usually meets every 2 weeks.



WHAT DO THE ADOPTION PANEL DO AT MEETINGS?

They discuss the reports which have been written about a child's case. There are 3 different reports which are:

- The Child Permanence Report – this report is about the child who is being considered for adoption. Your social worker will talk to you about what will be in your report, and in some cases you will see it.
- The Prospective Adopters Report – this report is about people who want to become adopters.
- The Adoption Placement Report – this report is about matching particular children with particular adopters to decide if they should live together.

Then the Adoption Panel make a recommendation about adoption to the Manager of the Lambeth social workers. The Manager decides what should happen and tells the social workers what has been decided.

WHAT IF I DO NOT AGREE WITH WHAT IS DECIDED?

If you do not agree with the Adoption Panel or the Social Work Manager, you should first of all talk with your social worker to let them know what you think. If you feel that this does not help, you can get in touch with the Children's Complaints Officer and talk it over with them. There is a leaflet in this pack to help you to contact the complaints officer and to help you to make a complaint.

DO THE ADOPTION PANEL MEMBERS HAVE TO STICK TO ANY RULES?

Yes they do.....

All the Adoption Panel members must agree to stick to the following rules:

- Information about you is private so they must not discuss cases outside of the Adoption Panel Meetings, and they must keep any reports safe and secure. This keeps your information confidential.
- If a Panel Member already knows someone personally whose case is being discussed or who is in the reports being discussed, they must tell the Adoption Panel Chairperson (The chairperson runs the Adoption Panel Meetings).
- They must agree to regularly attend meetings.
- They must come to each meeting having read the papers and ready to take part in making a decision.
- They must be respectful to the other Adoption Panel members.
- They must agree to attend training every year.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ADOPTION?

Your social worker will be able to help you find out more about adoption and the work of the Adoption Panel. Just ask – they will be happy to help you.