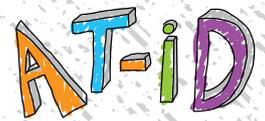


Briefing For Parents



Being a teenager in the modern world can be complicated and difficult. The road to developing your identity and own independence can be a bumpy one to say the least and this is especially true for adopted teenagers and their parents where there are added layers of complexity.

The at-id (adopted teens-identity) project is being launched across the Yorkshire and Humberside region and has been developed by the YAH adoption consortium as a response to an identified gap in service provision for adopted teenagers in the region.

It will have its website www.at-id.org.uk and offers general advice and information to adopted teens which has an open access policy. However the main core of the project will be a closed “members only” domain which adopted teens will have to register to use.

It has been developed by teens for teens and their overarching aims are to offer a safe place where they can meet and make friends in a supported environment, where they do not have to explain themselves and where they can “scream, shout, let it all out”.

The project will be run by PAC-UK, which has long established links with all the local authorities in the region. The project aims to give a voice to adopted teenagers across our region and ensure that it is heard.

The project will have its own specialist youth worker (part time) who will manage and develop the project. The project worker will be there primarily for project members and offer them opportunities to explore some of the familiar “hot topics” with other adopted teens in a safe and supported environment.

We are simply offering something that is aimed directly at adopted teenagers, will hopefully help some of them feel less isolated, bewildered and angry about certain aspects of their lives and help them to work through some of their own “hot topics” by having some contact with other young people in similar circumstances.

The project will work on a referral only basis with closed groups. Confidentiality is very important to us and we need to make sure that we offer a safe place to network and meet new friends (in order that identities of members can be carefully checked we will ask the AT-ID project worker or a local adoption social worker to obtain your consents for participation).

In return we will offer the following:

- The website designed by the young people which will be supervised.
- A “chatroom” where members can go online and communicate with each other, post comments and take part in and follow “conversation threads”. This will be monitored by a project worker who will encourage productive and safe discussion and will police the site for inappropriate behaviour.
- A “rant line” where members can request a phone appointment with the project worker to sound off or ask advice about something they feel unable to discuss with family or friends.
- A youth council where members meet every ¼ to discuss how to develop their project or conduct any identified pieces of work from YAH. Members are paid for their time...
- 4 x activity days where all members are invited to take part in an agreed activity that offers an informal social setting where they can have some fun, mix and mingle etc.

In return for your access to at-id we would expect/need your commitment to the following in return:

- Your written consent that your son and daughter can become a member involved.
- Your support in ensuring they have the means to take an active part in the project (the use of a phone or computer as required and the means to attend our forum/activity days).
- Your trust that we can judge what information about their participation needs feeding back to you (we would not routinely update you of progress unless we thought there was a safeguarding issue (“danger to self or others”) that needed following up, or unless your son/daughter specifically agreed to this. If we needed to contact you (other than in an emergency) The AT-ID project worker would do this through your adoption support team.

Need to get in touch?

www.at-id.org.uk

Call or email Tanya Killick 07773878699 at-id@pac-uk.org