

Part A - General Information

Charity Name

PACT (Parents And Children Together)

Charity Type/Structure

Not-for-profit

Charity Registration Number

285214

Project Name (if same as Charity Name, please leave this blank)

Adopted Children Voice and Empowerment

Lead Contact

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<https://www.facebook.com/pactcharity>

<https://twitter.com/PACTCHARITY>

<https://www.instagram.com/pactcharity/>

Part B - Project Proposal

Project Mission: A snapshot of the project's intention (50 words max)

To create new options and improve support and opportunities to empower Adopted Children who are coming up to and are teenagers. PACT would like to address the stigma around 'adopted people' and improve life chances and opportunities for this client group.

Situation (250 words)

There is a stigma around people who are adopted, a misunderstanding of their circumstances. The media portrays adopters as 'heroes' saving children in care, omitting that the children are strong resilient people in themselves. There is a wealth of materials supporting very young children with books about adoption and families and a lot of books and resources for adopting parents but there isn't much for adopted teenagers and this stage of a young persons life is hugely significant.

Adopted children struggle with bullying in school as they're singled out and teachers single adopted children out by accident often. Adopted children can feel they can't talk to their friends about feelings or their past as the friends wouldn't understand – not to the level that another adopted child would. But just because 2 people in the same school were adopted (for example) it doesn't mean they should be forced together, that's not always how support networks or friends are made.

Adopted children have had multiple significant life decisions made for them, usually with the best intentions, but this takes something away from them. PACT has done some work bringing adopted young people together in person and the feedback and appreciation is overwhelming from the children. There is a hunger for connections, for a positive future and for empowerment.

Complication (250 words)

We are trying to address the isolation that adopted children are faced with, particularly adopted children coming into their teenage years and the lack of understanding about children who are adopted. If possible/feasible we would like to explore ways to educate more people about adoption and adopted people to reduce the stigma attached to adopted children.

PACT would like to establish a way to address the lack of understanding, address bullying, increase awareness and connect adopted children up. There are many children who have been adopted, but in a school, town, community there will be a limited number who are known to each other. Who then do adopted children speak to that understand their background and their journey? Who are their role models to offer peer to peer guidance, support or advice? Enabling connections amongst adopted children at 10-12 years old will enable a support network to be created through their teenage years. A safe space for adoptees to speak provides confidentiality, support and empowerment.

Having some additional focuses for the adopted young people to share their voice and get heard will inspire and empower as well as educate more people who don't know anything about adoption and adopted children.

Better support and intervention to adopted teens would reduce the risk of disruptions in the teenage years where the adopted child and family may no longer be able to stay together due to issues that arise and in these situations the child could be returned back into care.

Solution (250 words)

PACT has begun to facilitate and bring together adopted children in different age brackets. Offering social time and activities to engage in, children that attend are already saying how great it is to 'be with other adoptees' and 'talk with others who are like me'.

PACT would like to extend these groups, making them more accessible to more adoptees. The groups could take on the challenge of addressing some of the issues they face as an adoptee producing art, music, films, stories aimed at other adopted teens, professionals and the general public. This would begin to break down barriers, address preconceived ideas and 'educate the nation' about Adopted Children. PACT would be interested in the creation of a safe online platform for adoptees to meet and chat with other adoptees. This would be facilitated and monitored, would be secure and safe and would provide a space for children to support and talk to each other from a position of understanding across a wider area. PACT would look at recruiting and training adopted people who are 18+ to volunteer to support the platform offering their own experience and reassurance to younger adoptees. The older adoptees would act in a 'mentor' style programme for younger adoptees.

The older adoptees supporting the peer to peer support work could also undertake some skills based development work to share their voice and look at creating materials, training videos or films aimed at professionals (or others) but from the perspective of the child and their journey.

Part C - Wider Support

How would the Stephen Lloyd Award network of partners' support be beneficial to your project? (250 words max)

PACT would benefit vastly from the network of partners as some of our ideas are still in the 'ideas' phase. PACT would benefit from business planning and support, costing the projects, consideration of how elements of the work could be monetised to create some sustainability. Because of the possible use of technology advice and expertise would be beneficial in understanding the feasibility of this idea and then how to create it, what platforms to use.

We are very conscious of sustainability and managing the creation of new projects and work and then maintaining and managing them. Therefore advice and support would be beneficial in exploring how to enable this to happen in a sensible way.

Equally looking at the breadth of partners, we would love to take on joint projects to enable potential art exhibitions to happen, communications campaigns, film sessions to capture voices and develop some of the potential materials to help professionals understand more. This legacy of materials would give the adoptees such a sense of pride and could create aspirations within the young people they didn't know they had.

Part D - Financial Justification

In general terms, please explain how the funding would be used to carry out your project. (50 words max)

Depending on the amount of funding received, funding would be used to invest in the development of the adopted children's work. Some funds would be allocated to extending the current offer and other funding invested in the creation of the new workstreams.

Part E - Supporting Information

Governing Documents: Where relevant, please upload any recent charity accounts and governing documents as attachments.

- [report.pdf](#)

Team: We would like to learn a little more about the individual or team invested into the project. What are your individual credentials? Is there a story behind how you or your team all came together to support the project? (75 words max)

PACT has been providing adoption services since the 1950's and are passionate about building and strengthening families. We have recognised this gap in provision and a member of the adoption support team is an adoptee herself so has a great understanding of the challenge on adopted children.