

Finding it hard to obtain support

Nina and Bernadette talk about their difficulties in obtaining adequate support for themselves after the adoption and the reactions of other people to the adoption.

Nina When he was adopted, and I was left on my own, emotionally I started to ... not deteriorate ... it's too strong a word ... but I started to withdraw into myself a lot more, and I phoned social services and said, you know, this ... they probably saw it as a ... you've taken my son and I want to know what you're gonna do about it. That's not what it was. It was, you know, you've had this involvement with me every day and now you've left me ... you know, I've got another child here to bring up and I'm, I'm finding it hard to deal with what's happened and I'm on my own now, you know, I'm used to that interaction of ... as much as it was unwanted interaction at the time ... but ... it was still interaction with someone every day. But from the minute of the last ... I got nothing. Just ... almost like the world just disappears. You, you don't want to go out either, you just ... you want to lock yourself away ... you want to shut the world out.

Bernadette I was diagnosed obviously six years ago with personality disorder through, em, social services, they wanted me to have a psychology ... test to see if I've got any mental health problem. That's when they picked it up that I've got a personality disorder which is a cognition. So that was one of the things that I couldn't keep my child as well. I've been backwards and forwards for the last 6 years to the GP asking for help and not one ... I've had counselling and obviously after six years, there's nothing else they can do. So you're back on your own again.

Friends and family ... family, I've not had any contact with them for the last seven years now, they've all disowned me because of the situation in it, not one of them wanted to take my daughter on, em, to stay close to the family. Friends ... well, I get bullied quite a lot, because I've got a mental health problem and also the situation to do with the father is the big issue at the moment. Wherever I walk in the streets, there's teenagers shouting it out, I don't deserve that sort of behaviour from anyone, em. Life at the moment is exactly the same as six years ago, being called names, bullied. I have to move at the moment because of it. So for the last six years I've been on the constant move from house to house, place to place, just so I can live a normal life.

Nina Through the court process ... let's see. There was so many people involved. There was ... social worker, the guardian ad litem, the family ... do you know, I can't even remember what it's called now ... the family centre where you were involved with so many social workers, your doctor, your health visitor, you name it, everybody was there and involved. But they were all there and involved for the child, there was no one for me.