

Guide To Adoption Support Fund (ASF)

The adoption support fund has been established to help families access support which they had previously struggled to secure.

How family's access ASF support:

The local authority or RAA that places a child with a family is responsible for assessing that family's support needs for 3 years after the Adoption Order is made. After 3 years, the responsibility lies with the local authority or RAA where the family lives, if they have moved

Families apply to the relevant local authority or RAA, who will assess their needs

Local authorities and RAAs will:-

- Assess the family and consider if therapeutic support is needed
- Make a recommendation on the therapy required and if it is eligible for payments from the ASF
- Apply directly to the ASF
- Commission the support from their own list of approved providers when the ASF approves funding

To be eligible for funding, local authorities and RAAs must apply to the ASF within 3 months of assessing a family's support needs. Other criteria includes:-

- ❖ Child is living with a family in England while waiting for adoption
- ❖ Were adopted from local authority care in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland and live in England
- ❖ Were adopted from abroad and live in England with a recognised adoption status

- ❖ Were in care before an SGO was made
- ❖ Left care under a special guardianship order that was subsequently changed to an adoption order, or vice versa
- ❖ Are under a residency order or child arrangement order (CAO) and were previously looked after
- ❖ Were previously looked after but where the adoption, special guardianship, residency or CAO placement has broken down, irrespective of any reconciliation plans

The ASF provides funds to RAA's to pay for essential therapeutic services for eligible adoptive families

**Maximum funding allocations
for each child**

The ASF will have 2 fair access limits:-

£2,500 per child per year for specialist
Assessment

£5,000 per child per year for therapy

The majority of applications to the fund fall within these limits. In exceptional cases, where there is an urgent need for higher cost support, local authorities or RAAs are asked to match-fund applications.

Criteria for match-funding, this is subject to further assessment and LA agreement:-

- ❖ A high risk of adoption breakdown without high cost support
- ❖ Local authorities and RAAs dealing with an unusually high number of complex cases that they cannot afford to fund without additional support from the ASF
- ❖ Additional funding would help to progress hard to place adoptions

- ❖ A lack of available, affordable therapeutic support means higher cost provision is required
- ❖ An example is:- therapy cost total £7000 funded by £5000 ASF fair access + £1000 from child's LA and £1000 matched by ASF = £7000.

The ASF can fund up to 50% of the amount above the fair access limits, up to a maximum of £30,000 per child including the fair access limits

The Fund will pay for therapeutic support and services including but not restricted to:-

Parent training courses around:-

- Building Attachments
- Child to Parent Violence group-based programme
- Enhancing Adoptive Parenting
- Foundations for Attachment
- Non Violent Resistance (NVR) Programme
- Nurturing Attachments
- Safer, Stronger Adoptive Families, Secure Base/Safebase Parenting programme
- The Great Behaviour Breakdown (GBB) programme
- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Families (TCIF)
- TR-UST therapeutic re-parenting programme with Gateway Psychology

A creative or physical therapy involving the child only –

- Art therapy
- Dance movement therapy and Drama Therapy
- Lego therapy
- Mindful yoga
- Music therapy
- Play therapy

A creative therapy involving the parent and the child –

- Group-based art or play therapy
- Koru project
- Parent/child attachment play
- Play therapy

- Theraplay certified practitioner therapy
- Filial therapy

Sensory Therapy – trauma related

- Sensory integration processing therapy
- Sensory attachment related therapy
- Therapeutic listening programme

Psychotherapy (or a talking therapy) for the child –

- Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT)
- Educational psychotherapy
- Dialectical behavioural therapy (DBT)
- Eye movement desensitisation and reprocessing (EMDR)
- Internal family systems therapy
- Mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT)
- Neuro-integration system therapy (NIS)
- Psychoanalytical therapy
- Reducing anxiety management plan (RAMP)

A family therapy –

- Child to Parent Violence (CPV) Individual Based Programme
- Dyadic developmental psychotherapy (DDP) certified practitioner
- Dyadic developmental psychotherapy (DDP) informed / non-certified practitioner
- Multi-systemic family therapy
- Psychodynamic therapy
- Systemic family therapy
- Video interaction guidance (VIG)
- Video-feedback intervention to promote positive parenting and sensitive discipline (VIPP-SD)

The current processing time for an application to the ASF is 28 working days from submission

The following is NOT IN SCOPE for the fund:-

- Therapy for the parents/carers.
- Animal therapy.
- Standalone assessments for single conditions, e.g. ADHD, FASD,

autism, sensory integration, unless they are part of a wider specialist assessment which meets the criteria for the Specialist Assessment within the **Fair Access Limit** i.e. are in depth, covering trauma and attachment, led and undertaken by a qualified clinician and resulting in a therapeutic support plan.

- Standalone specialist assessments, including any baselining specialist assessments, are also out of scope of the Therapy Fair Access Limit.
- A general social work assessment of adoption/SGO support needs, which remains the responsibility of the local authority/regional adoption agency.

For further information please visit:-

[Adoption support fund \(ASF\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/adoption-support-fund)