



Adoption

The Adoption Support Fund



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The Adoption Support Fund was launched on May 1st 2015 with £19 million to provide therapeutic support services to adoptive families. It is now available to Special Guardians.

Many children have experienced difficult and traumatic experiences before being placed with their family. This can prevent them from settling into their new home and can create difficulties at particular stages such as during adolescence. Adopted children and those who have separated from their families can also experience difficulties in education and social relationships.

The new Adoption Support Fund will be a vital means of support for many adoptive families and Special Guardians. It will help them to access specialist support services when it is most needed.

Services such as behaviour therapy, play and music therapy, and family support sessions can help children come to terms with their difficulties - giving them the confidence to build strong relationships with their new families and within the wider community.

How does the Fund work?

The fund will be used to support adopted children and young people up to the age of 18. Up to 25 if statemented (SEN) or children with a care plan. When you request a service an adoption support worker will be required to complete a report on the needs of your family and identify with you the type of therapeutic support needed.

When can applications be made to the Fund?

Local authorities can submit applications for funding before an Adoption Order so adopters can receive a continuous package of support from the time of placement.

Support from the fund will only be available after the order has been granted. The fund will not pay for support that is not delivered in England Wales, or Northern Ireland.

What support will the Fund pay for?

Training for adoptive parents, where training has not been provided by the placing agency during the first three years of placement.

Training for parents in geographical areas where this has not been delivered previously.

Complex Assessments where needed such as CAMHS assessments, multidisciplinary assessments, including education and health, cognitive, neuro psychological and other mental health assessments.

Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy - for use with children and young people with psychological problems as a result of trauma and poor attachment.

Theraplay - interactive play guided by a therapist to build and strengthen the parent child bond.

Filial Therapy - Type of theraplay usually delivered by the parent.

What the fund will not pay for:

- The fund will not pay for any services the agency provides under current adoption support requirements.
- It will not pay for, speech, language or occupational therapy/legal support or membership of clubs and organizations
- Support provided by agencies that are not OFSTED Registered will not be funded.
- The fund will not pay for training for adopters for new placements and placements within the last three years.

How will I access the services may I need?

The government has provided a list of OFSTED registered adoption support agencies providing therapeutic services to adopters and their children.

Your social worker will help with this. Obtaining a Service -

- Approach your local authority for an assessment of your support needs.
- The local authority considers the need for therapeutic services. Also the type of therapeutic service and if it is eligible to be paid for by the fund.
- The adopter/carer and the local authority look at the available support.
- The local authority applies to the Adoption Support Fund on behalf of the Adopter.
- The Adoption Support Fund approves the funding and the funds are transferred to the local authority which then purchases the identified support from an external provider.

Should you need a service, please contact us at:

The Permanency, Adoption and Support Team
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
5 Clove Crescent, E14 2BG
Tel: 020 7364 5431
Email: adoption@towerhamlets.gov.uk

