

About the Adoption Support Fund

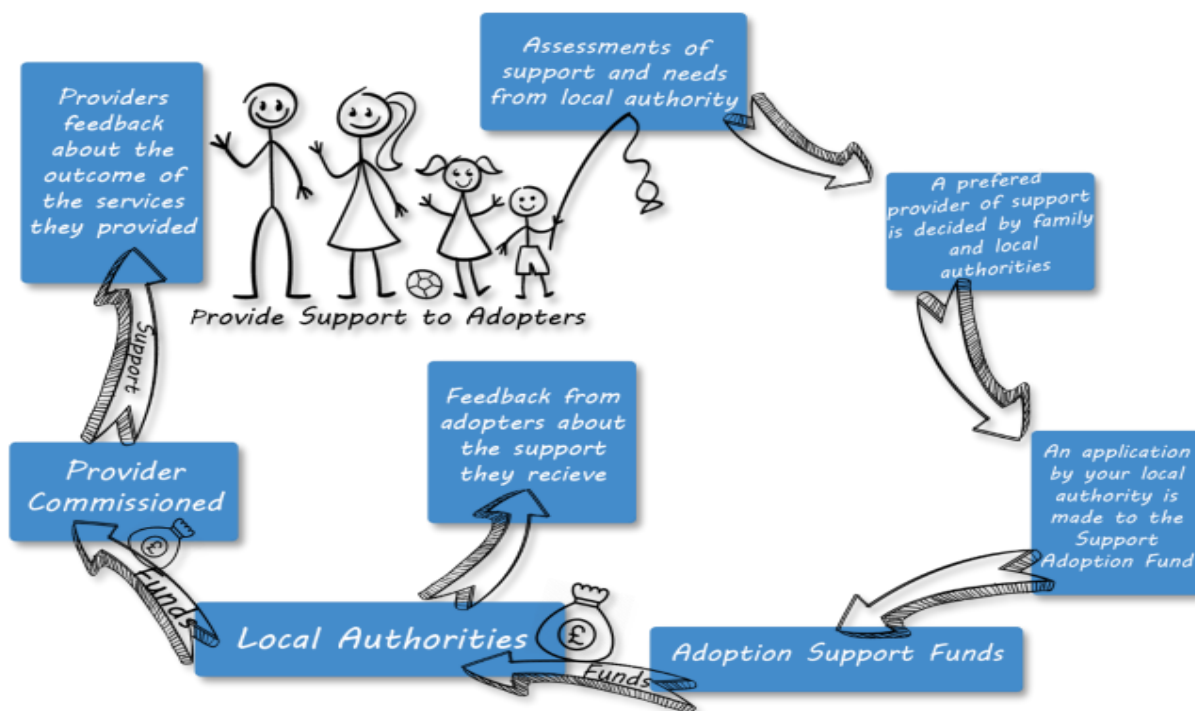
The Adoption Support Fund (ASF) was introduced as many adoptive and special guardianship families require some kind of therapeutic support and too many struggled in being able to receive this help. The ASF enables families to access funding for a range of therapeutic services which may include; specialist assessments, therapeutic parenting courses and creative therapies. Each child has access to a Fair Access Limit of £5000 for therapy and a separate additional Specialist Assessments Fair Access Limit of £2,500 per child was also introduced for children who require a specialist assessment before therapy can begin.

Who is eligible for the Adoption Support Fund?

The ASF is available to all children adopted from care. This isn't just newly adopted children – it can also be used to fund therapeutic support for children from the point at which they are placed with their adoptive families rather than waiting until the adoption order is made. This fund has also been extended to intercounty adoptions and children being cared for under Special Guardianship arrangements who have been in care previously. The ASF funds support for adopted/SGO children living in England. It is available up to and including the age of 21-25 with a Special Educational Needs Statement/Education, Health and Care Plan where they have left care through adoption or special guardianship arrangements.

"The ASF gives me hope for my child's future. Being able to access effective therapy in a reasonable timescale can only be a positive experience for adoptive families." - **Adoptive Parent**

"We felt so supported and listened to. The work produced has really helped my child's teachers to understand her with empathy and emotional stability." – **Adoptive Parent, describing a RAMP**



How can Education and Schools be involved?

Local Authorities (LA's) are responsible for carrying out assessments of support needs for adopters and special guardians. LA Adoption Support Teams are the first point of contact for parents/carers.

Educational Support Accessed Through the Adoption Support Fund:

Please See the Service Categorisation Guidance for Information Regarding 'in Scope' Services (Department for Education, Mott Macdonald 2016) www.adoptionssupportfund.co.uk

RAMP – Reducing Anxiety Management Plan

The **RAMP** is a tool to help schools to support children who may be finding it more difficult to self-regulate, possibly struggling with peer relationships and who may be emotionally and behaviourally younger than their chronological ages, as a result of early experiences of trauma and abuse.

As an education provider you can also use Pupil Premium Plus to purchase special education services

Pupil Premium Plus for looked after children acknowledges the impact of trauma and loss in children's lives and how schools have a key impact in supporting children who have had this difficult start to life. Pupil Premium Plus is currently £2,345 per child per year. Early Years Pupil Premium is also available as additional funding within early years settings, this funding equates to £302.10 per year.

Pupil Premium Plus is available to pupils from reception to Year 11 who are in local authority care, have been adopted, left care under SGO or left care under Child Arrangements Order. This funding is extended to all children adopted from care.

How is funding accessed?

In order for schools to access this funding parents and guardians must have declared their child's adoptive, SGO or CAO status directly to the school. Parents and guardians must provide evidence for example, a copy of legal order etc.



For more information about what **Adoption Support Services** Psychology Associates offers, please visit the Adoption and Fostering section of our website; www.psychologyassociates.org.uk or contact a member of our Referral Team by calling 0845 026 7260 or emailing enquiry@psychologyassociates.org.uk

"The quality of the individualised support provided by the agency is excellent"

Ofsted, March 2019