

What can the Adoption Support Fund NOT be used for?

- 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 FAL 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 remains the responsibility of the local authority/regional adoption agency.

The ASF will also not pay for:

- Support for physical medical conditions
- Speech and language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other universal health services
- Education or Legal support
- Membership of clubs and organisations
- Support provided by private and third sector organisations that are not Ofsted regulated
- Ex-local authority (associate) social workers
- Davis facilitator
- Hypnotherapy (child or adult)
- Swimming, tennis, rugby, football, dance, Emotional Freedom Therapy
- Isolation and Supportive holding therapy (anything that restrains people physically)
- DNA tests
- Executive functioning therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Education establishment fees such as schools/tutors
- Commissioning
- Equine and animal therapy
- Cranial sacral therapy
- Behavioural optometry
- Somatic experiencing treatment

Local Authorities and adoption agencies should already be providing:

- Information, advice, guidance and signposting
- Counselling
- Opportunities for adoptive families to meet, socialise and support one another (eg. family days, support groups)
- Managing and mediating contact with birth families
- Mediation when an adoptive family is at risk of disruption
- Financial support
- Basic life story work
- Short break care where no therapeutic input is provided (respite)

How can I access the ASF?

You will need to have an assessment of your family's support needs by the Local Authority. The Local Authority that places the child with you is responsible for assessing your adoption support needs for three years after the adoption order is complete. After three years it becomes the responsibility of the Local Authority where you live (if different).

- **Cambridgeshire:** 01480 379679
AdoptionandSGO.SupportDuty@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Where can I find out more information?

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/adoption-support-fund-asf>

<https://www.frg.org.uk/need-help-or-advice/family-and-friends-carers/the-adoption-support-fund-and-special-guardians>

https://www.adoptionuk.org/Pages/FAQs/Category/adoption-support-fund?gclid=EAlaIqobChMI4dWg5uiu6QIVGLLtCh2kTgOQEAAYASAAEgLwiPD_BwE

<https://www.first4adoption.org.uk/adoption-support/financial-support/adoption-support-fund/>

[Support for adoptive families - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption \(cpadoption.co.uk\)](https://www.supportforadoptivefamilies.org.uk/)



Children Previously in Care: The Adoption Support Fund

What is the Adoption Support Fund?

The Adoption Support Fund is funding to provide therapeutic support to children up to and including the age of 21, or 25 if they have an EHCP. It also provides a range of therapeutic parenting programmes to equip parents with skills and techniques to therapeutically parent their child, to address their child's assessed needs.

Who is Eligible?

- Children who are living (placed) with a family in England while waiting for adoption
- Children who were adopted from local authority care in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland and live in England.
- Children who were adopted from abroad and live in England with a recognised adoption status.
- Children who were in care immediately before an SGO was made.



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What can the Adoption Support Fund be used for?

The ASF will pay for therapeutic services that are not currently provided for by Local Authorities:

- **Training for parents** Therapeutic parenting courses or a securebase/safebase parenting programme.
- **Specialist Assessment that meets all of the below criteria:**
 - An in depth assessment of the child and family's needs with a focus on trauma and attachment, and how this demonstrates the links to the assessment of support needs
 - Led and undertaken by a qualified clinician (For the purposes of the ASF a qualified clinician would be someone who diagnoses and treats patients; is suitably qualified and is licensed to practice via a regulator such as the Health and Care Professional Council e.g a trained Clinical Psychologist or Attachment Psychotherapist.
 - Result in a therapeutic support plan for the child(ren) / family.
- **Multi-Disciplinary packages of support**
- **Psychotherapy**
- **Attachment therapy**
- **Solution Focussed brief therapy**

- **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) for the child**
- **Brain mapping**
- **Systemic Family Therapy**
- **Video Interaction Guidance**
- **Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT)**
- **Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy.** Integrative method of psychotherapy developed for the treatment of children and young people who manifest serious psychological problems associated with complex trauma and serious failure to establish secure patterns of attachment.
- **Theraplay** Interactive play between child/ young person and parent to strengthen the parent-child attachment. Sessions guided by a therapist.
- **Filial therapy** Specific type of play therapy where the parent usually conducts the session.
- **Creative Therapies-Drama, Art, Music,**
- **Play therapy**
- **Lego therapy**
- **Dance Movement Therapy**
- **Sensory integration therapy**
- **Extensive therapeutic life story work**

- **MIM - Marschak Interaction Method (common theraplay)** – is in scope when part of an application for therapy, where the MIM is used as a measurement tool.
- **Story stem** is in scope when part of an application for therapy where the Story Stem is used as a measurement tool
- **Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR)** Psychological treatment method which stimulates the brain to reduce intensity of distressing memories, for example a therapist asking a child to move their eyes from left to right to stimulate blocked information.
- **Non-violent resistance training** A psychological approach for overcoming destructive, aggressive, controlling and risk-taking behaviour.

Therapy such as those mentioned above, when

- provided as part of a short break, course or package.
- commissioned pre-adoption but delivery extends post-adoption order.
- Therapeutic support where the child is under a section 20 order and the plan is for the child to be reunited with their adoptive parents.

(Taken from adoptionuk.org)