

## **Previously in Care Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What does 'previously in care' mean?**

Children who are known as previously in care (or previously looked after) are those children who have been 'in care' with an English or Welsh local authority for more than 24 hours and are now subject to an adoption order, a special guardianship order or a child arrangement order. It also includes those children who have been adopted from 'State Care' outside England and Wales. It does not include those children who have returned to the care of their parents.

### **What support can the virtual school provide for previously in care children and their families?**

The Virtual School's remit for previously in care children is to promote the educational achievement of this cohort of children through information and advice for parents, carers and professionals. This includes signposting to other agencies or services who can offer support.

### **What support should my child's school provide?**

Maintained and Academy schools in England must have a designated person who is responsible for promoting the education of children previously in care. This person must undertake training in relation to this responsibility. They are the initial point of contact for parents, and are held to account for the support of children previously in care, including the spending of pupil premium plus funding.

## **Pupil Premium Plus FAQs**

### **Is my child entitled to Pupil Premium Plus?**

Children of statutory school age (in Reception up to Year 11) who were previously in the care of an English or Welsh local authority and have gone on to be adopted, subject to a special guardianship order (SGO) or a child arrangement order (CAO) are eligible for Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding.

They must also be attending a state school or academy in England (including special schools but not including a hospital school or independent school unless this place is being fully funded by the local authority).

Children who are 3 and 4 years old and have previously been in care are entitled to the Early Years Pupil Premium to support their learning and development. Ensure your childcare provider knows that your child is entitled and has seen evidence and they will receive the funding as part of their normal funding claim. This equates to 53p per hour of early education take up.

Children who have been adopted from 'State care' outside of England are now eligible for Pupil Premium Plus funding.

### **How do I claim Pupil Premium Plus?**

You will need to make your child's school aware that they are entitled to receive this funding and you will need to provide evidence of the adoption certificate, special guardianship/child arrangement order or a letter from the placing authority to give your consent for them to claim. The school will need to record the child on their October census as being previously in care (or previously 'looked after') and the funding will then be paid directly to school from the DfE in April each year until the child leaves the school.

## **What can my child's school spend the Pupil Premium Plus funding on?**

Pupil premium plus can be used to facilitate a wide range of social, emotional and educational support, taking into account individual children's needs. It is not, however, a personalised budget for each child and so could be pooled together for staff training, for example, to benefit the cohort of previously in care children. Schools are accountable for the spending and impact of the funding. It is good practice for school to consult with parents and carers on how they think the funding could best support their child.

Effective ways of spending the funding can be found below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/683561/The\\_designated\\_teacher\\_for\\_looked-after\\_and\\_previously\\_looked-after\\_children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf) (page 23)

<http://squareoneattachment.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/PPP-guide.pdf>

## **Adoption Support Fund**

### **What is the Adoption Support Fund (ASF)?**

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 entitled to it?**

- 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.
- Children who left care under a special guardianship order which subsequently was changed to an adoption order, or vice versa.
- Children left care under a child arrangement order (CAO) to enable the assessment of a potential special guardian, while the CAO is in force. They remain eligible if an SGO is subsequently made.

### **How can I access it?**

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).

### **Where can I find out more information?**

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

<https://www.adoptionuk.org/pages/faqs/category/adoption-support-fund>