



The Adoption Support Fund Information Leaflet



North Lincolnshire Council

People's Directorate

Adoption Service

What is the Adoption Support Fund?

The Adoption Support Fund (ASF) was established to help pay for essential therapy services for adoptive families as and when they need it.

Who is eligible for support from the Adoption Support Fund?

The ASF is available for children up to and including the age of 21 (or 25 with an SEN Statement/EHC Plan) who have been adopted from Local Authority care in England or adopted from Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland but living in England. From 1st April 2016, the Fund became available for Intercountry adoptions (once the placement has been made and the child is in England) and for Special Guardians who care for children who were looked after immediately prior to the Special Guardianship Order.

How can I access funding from the Adoption Support Fund?

To access the ASF, you will need to have an assessment of your families' adoption support needs by the Local Authority.

You have the right to request an assessment and your Local Authority is required by law to conduct one. 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 the social worker identifies that therapeutic services would be beneficial to your family, they will be able to apply to the ASF on your behalf. The social worker would be expected to talk to you about who can provide the types of service that you need and which provider you would prefer. This could be the Local Authority itself, a neighbouring Local Authority, an independent provider, or an NHS provider. In the case of a successful application, funding will be released to the Local Authority to commission the approved services.

For additional information about the Adoption Support Fund please go to;

www.adoptionsupportfund.co.uk/Parents

Details are provided on the website as to what services the ASF will consider funding.

It is important that the website is checked prior to any requests for funding being made to ensure that the service recommended is in scope, i.e. what the fund will consider paying for.

You can learn more about the ASF by contacting your local Adoption Service. You can contact North Lincolnshire Adoption Service on **01724 297024**. Please ask to speak to the Adoption Duty Worker.

If a post adoption support assessment is completed and you are unhappy with the outcome, then you can contact the Adoption Service Manager on **01724 297024** or karen.everatt@northlincs.gov.uk

Your worker will ensure that you have details of the local ASSA (this information is also in the Adoption Statement of purpose) and details of the complaints process. If you are not given this information then please request it from your worker or the Adoption Duty Worker.

The contact details for North Lincolnshire Adoption Service;

Adoption and Fostering Service

Church Square House

30 – 40 High Street

Scunthorpe

DN15 6NL

01724 297024