

ADOPTION SUPPORT FUND – COVID-19 SCHEME - GUIDANCE NOTES

UPDATED on 24 APRIL 2020

The scheme enables regional adoption agencies and local authority adoption teams that are not yet in a regional adoption agency (RAAs/LAs) to access ASF funds to deliver new immediate therapeutic support to families eligible for ASF funding during the current corona virus situation only. RAAs/LAs will be expected to liaise with their respective LA Special Guardianship teams in their area to ensure that any funding sought includes services to eligible special guardian families.

RAAs/LAs should continue to make applications to the core ASF for specific therapeutic support for eligible individual children and families under the current ASF eligibility and scope criteria. This scheme is only for activity that meets therapeutic needs arising from the corona virus situation.

Each RAA/LA has been notified of its allocation based on the funding model used by the government to distribute funding to local authorities to help respond to COVID-19 pressures across all services.

RAAs can make more than one application during the life of the scheme but each RAA/LA cannot exceed their overall funding allocation.

RAA/LAs can join together and pool their allocations, with a single organisation submitting an application as a consortium approach for example. However, for audit purposes, we ask that you provide confirmation of partner LA/RAA agreement e.g. confirmation email from the other authority/ies

The scheme is temporary and will fund therapeutic support needs arising from the corona virus situation until the end of September 2020. Funding for the scheme will be reviewed during and at the end of that process.

To access this funding, RAAs/LAs will need to complete and return the application form to asf@mottmac.com. Decisions can be expected within five working days.

Applications MUST be received by 5pm on 12 June 2020

The types of activities that can be funded include:

- Buying services from voluntary sector providers to provide virtual support to groups of families and children through for example a helpline or virtual peer to peer support or paying for adopters to access membership support services from voluntary sector organisations.
- Bringing in agency or using voluntary sector staff to provide adoption/SGO support to cover LA/RAA staff who may have been temporarily redeployed to deliver other frontline children's services.
- Providing any other urgent therapeutic support that is currently outside the scope of the ASF that can be provided during the lifetime of the scheme e.g. couples therapy, online training courses.

The above list is not exhaustive, and we would welcome creative and innovative solutions to provide therapeutic support to families during the current situation.

Funding for the following is out of scope of the scheme:

- Activities in school settings. This should be funded by Pupil Premium or other sources of funding
- Respite support
- Electronic equipment or computers for families and children

Activities for which funding is being sought must commence before the end of June 2020 and only take place during the duration of the scheme (April to September). However, in some instances, it may be pragmatic and more cost effective to purchase services that will continue beyond this period e.g. annual membership subscriptions.

At the end of the scheme, LAs/RAAs will be required to provide assurance that the spend was used for the intended purpose and return any unused funds back to Fund.

For further information please contact: asf@mottmac.com

Date of Issue: 24 April 2020