



# Newsletter

Issue 1 | December 2014

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## Welcome to the first Prototype Adoption Support Fund Newsletter

*The ASF Support Team will be sending out quarterly newsletter which will include topical updates, useful resources and team news to encourage shared learning and provide regular updates.*

*If you have any suggestions or requests for upcoming issues please let us know.*

### ASF NEWS AND EVENTS

First and foremost we would like to extend a big thank you to all for your continued participation in the Prototype Adoption Support Fund. Your passion, commitment and knowledge have been invaluable and will ultimately inform the design of the national ASF ensuring that adopted children and their families are supported in a way that delivers the greatest benefits.

### Some recent highlights that you should know about

#### DfE Adoption Support Fund announcement

As you all will know, Edward Timpson, Minister for Children and Families made an ASF announcement this November which attracted national media coverage. The key messages included:

- The Adoption Support Fund will be available nationally from May 2015.
- The Fund will be available for children up to and including the age of 18 (or 25 with a SEN statement) who have been adopted from local authority care in England or adopted from Wales but living in England.
- The Fund will support services after the Adoption Order, but LAs will be able to submit applications for funding before the Order, so that they can provide a continuous package of support from the time of placement.
- Local authorities, independent providers (Ofsted registered) and NHS providers (offering services within the scope of the ASF) can all provide services through the ASF.
- The full scope of the ASF will be set out by First4Adoption before May, but will include therapeutic parenting training; creative therapies; psychotherapy; and play therapy.

**All the information on the Fund will be available on First4Adoption and Adoption UK's website.**

#### Widening of Criteria

Very recently the DfE extended the eligibility criteria to include:

- a. Therapeutic parenting training
- b. Respite Care (if with a therapeutic intervention)
- c. Continuing to pay for pre order support identified by LA once the order has gone through.

A revised 'What the Fund will Pay for' criteria document will be circulated shortly alongside some practical guidance.

## Innovation session held at this year's NCAS conference

The ASF Prototype project team hosted an innovation session at this year's National Children and Adult Services Conference (NCAS) on the development of the Adoption Support Fund. The discussions built a better understanding of the principles and operations of the ASF and the need to increase awareness amongst local authorities that are not participating in the Prototype. The session also included contributions by Pete Dwyer (Director of Children and Young People's Services, North Yorkshire County Council) who told North Yorkshire's story of being part of the project and how the approach taken has added value and supported the delivery of innovation. We would like to take this opportunity to thank North Yorkshire Council and Pete Dwyer for their contribution and adding tremendous value on the day.

**Please can we encourage you to promote and discuss the development of the ASF with fellow non-Prototype Local Authorities to increase shared learning in advance of national rollout.**

## Applications and new service delivery models

We are starting to receive applications for group training to parents. We are delighted that new service delivery models for support are being considered and adopted. If you are setting up similar service provision, please remember that the ASF can fund this!

## Upcoming Webinars

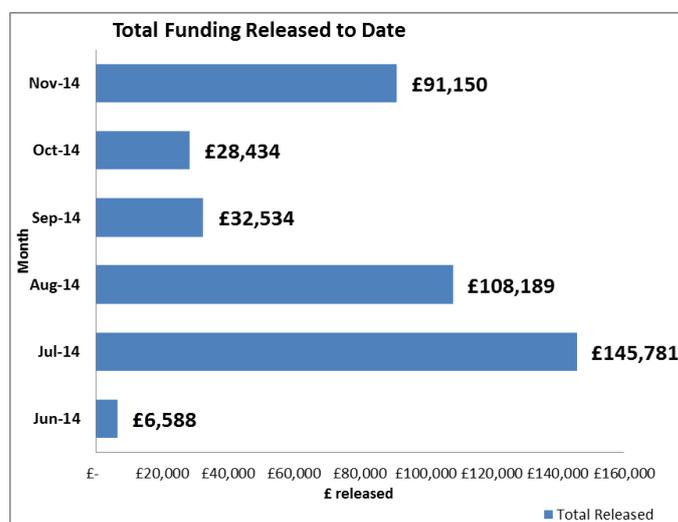
In the coming weeks we will be running a number of online webinars on the widening of the ASF criteria. If you are interested in a particular topic and want us to include this please get in touch and let us know.

## FUND UPDATE (as of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)

You will be pleased to hear that since the launch of the Adoption Support Fund (04/06/2014) we have:

- **received 95 applications**
- **89 have been approved** (2 of which were partially approved involving 2 therapeutic services within 1 application / and 1 pre-order application for which funding will be released when we receive LA confirmation that the order is complete)
- **6 have not been approved** (not within scope of what the Fund will pay for).

The funding amount for the 89 approved applications including 1 pre-order application equals **£412,676.00** with an overall average of £4,636.81 per application.



**We are encouraged by the increase in the number of applications made to the Fund in November. Thank you for your hard work. Please continue to make applications so we can maintain this upward trend and keep adding value.**

## CASE STUDIES

The real value and benefits delivered during the Prototype ASF is being demonstrated by the numerous and incredible case studies you have shared with us. The DfE has read these with great interest and we are so very pleased to hear how the ASF is making a real difference to adopted children and their families.

We have included a few submissions below to share these great stories and experiences amongst our Prototype ASF local authorities.

**Hampshire** - Sibling group of 3 children under 6 years, the promise to the parents of timely support has lifted the pressure and given hope to the adopters. Instead of being passed between agencies their needs are being responded to and the promise of help and support in itself has enabled them to continue.

**Gloucestershire** - An extension to the range of support that can be offered and the ability to secure it earlier in the process. For example, it has enabled support to be provided to teenage adopted children where previously Gloucestershire could not have put in support until the tensions reached crisis point.

**North Yorkshire** - Play therapy including early assessment, intervention through play, and an action plan to allow the child and her adoptive family to gain further insight into her needs and therefore support her and her family in working through the trauma of her early life experiences.

## Prototype ASF Team - News

We are very pleased to announce that the Prototype ASF project team has been awarded the national Implementation Support contract by the DfE which will be delivered in advance of national fund rollout.

Thank you for all your ongoing efforts to develop and test the ASF in preparation of national implementation. The knowledge and learning we are gaining during the Prototype phase is absolutely critical and will pave the way for non-Prototype local authorities to successfully implement the ASF.

## SUPPORT and Who to Contact

If you have not visited our website already, can we please encourage you to read the support and guidance available on the ASF website: [www.adoptionsupportfund.co.uk](http://www.adoptionsupportfund.co.uk)

Included on this site are useful resources such as:

- Fund FAQs
- What the prototype Adoption Support Fund will pay for
- SEND Pathfinder Information Packs and Resources
- Guidance for the BAAF Assessment framework
- BAAF adoption support assessment framework proforma

To discuss any aspects of the Adoption Support Fund process please contact: Your assigned Key Link Advisor in the first instance, the Adoption Support Fund Helpdesk via 01223 463517 or Email: [asf@mottmac.com](mailto:asf@mottmac.com)

