

# Adoption Support Fund

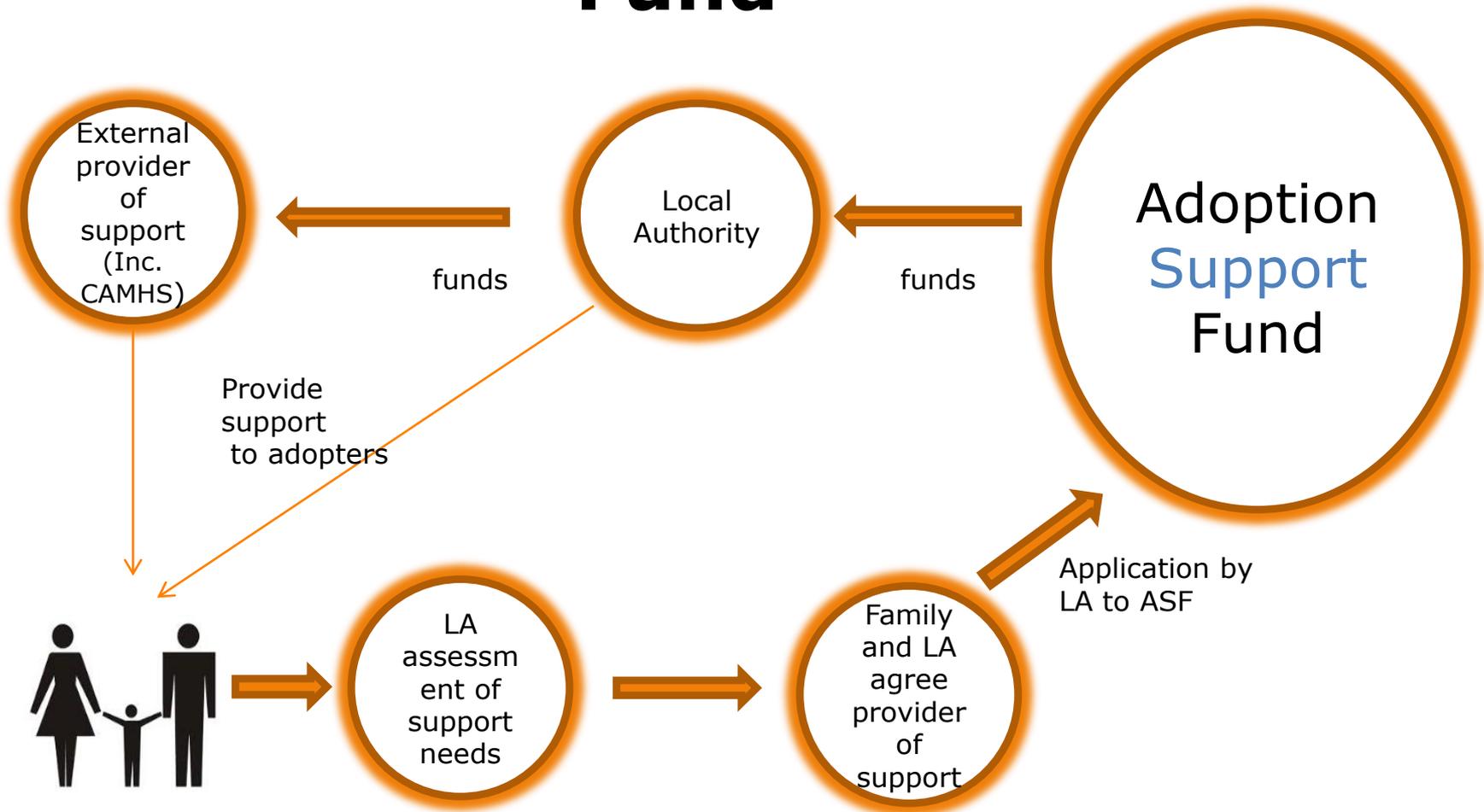
POTATO AGM and Conference  
8<sup>th</sup> November 2015

By Jenny Jones and Sally Donovan

# Overview of the Adoption Support Fund (ASF)

- Post Adoption Support (PAS) has been historically underfunded
- Survey by Adoption UK recognised that most needed – but least funded – form of support was therapeutic interventions
- September 2013 - Government announces plans for ASF
- Pilot study July 2014 to April 2015
- Officially launched 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015
- Available for children adopted from care (post adoption order) in England, or living in England having moved from care in Wales, up to age 18 (25 with an SEN statement).

# Adoption **Support** Fund



# What it covers:

- Therapeutic parenting courses
- Complex assessments
- Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy
- Theraplay
- Filial therapy
- Music therapy
- Art therapy
- Drama therapy
- EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing)
- Non-violent resistance
- Therapy when provided as part of a short break or package
- Therapy, when commissioned pre-adoption order but delivery extends post-adoption order
- Therapeutic support where the child is under a section 20 order and there is a possibility of the child being reunited with their adoptive parents
- Extensive therapeutic life story work

# Success so far

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015

- £7.5 Million
- 2230 Families
- Many families already reporting positive changes
- Local Authorities starting to 'think outside the box'

## Quotes from Adoptive Parents

*"The ASF has enabled our son to access therapy that wouldn't otherwise have been possible."*



# Problem areas

- Families not understanding what ASF is or how they access it
- LA's not understanding what ASF is and how it can be used
- Parents not wanting/able to apply
  - Previous difficulties between LA/families
  - lack of faith/fear of 'entering the system'
  - Unable to cope with another assessment whilst dealing with day to day challenges
- DfE acknowledge ASF is not perfect

# Getting the most out of the ASF

- You have a legal right to an assessment of support needs for your family
- Remind PASW that the ASF will pay for an assessment
- Remind the PASW that there are a number of resources for them to use on the ASF website, scope/eligibility of Fund etc.
- Use the ASF website to familiarise yourself on what the Fund can provide for you, before making a request for an assessment
- Research potential providers before making your request for assessment - you should be part of the decision making process
- Keep a note of key dates of contact with PAS
- PASW need to be 'creative' in their wording

# What is next for ASF?

- Secure long term funding through the Spending Review (Announcement due early December)
- Establish firm evidence base for therapeutic adoption support services
- Increase knowledge and awareness of the benefits of adoption support in the workforce and with adoption families
- DfE to continue to review the scope and eligibility criteria
- Continue to be reviewed by Expert Advisory Group
- Parent reps to continue to investigate options for:
  - Improving access route to ASF
  - Good practice guidelines (eg: Assessment process, timescales, participation from adopters etc..)



*Messages  
for the  
EAG...*

Please use your 'post it notes' to think of areas that you would like to see improved or changed with regards to the ASF.

These suggestions will be collated and passed on to the Department for Education.

# Further information:

[www.adoptionsupportfund.co.uk](http://www.adoptionsupportfund.co.uk)

[www.first4adoption.org.uk/adoption-support/adoption-support-fund](http://www.first4adoption.org.uk/adoption-support/adoption-support-fund)

<http://www.first4adoption.org.uk/adoption-support/adoption-support-agency-finder>

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