

ACE Families and the Adoption Support Fund

ACE has been active in accessing **therapeutic therapy** for our families over the past year. 416 applications to the Adoption Support Fund (ASF) have been made to date. Most of the funding is for applications for Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP). Parenting using the principles of **Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy** helps the parent understand the meaning of their child's behaviour and stay calm and **emotionally regulated** as they talk with their child, even at very difficult times. This, in turn, helps the child to be calm and helps the parent remain emotionally available to the child.

This parenting approach suggests a range of parenting strategies which makes the world feel a safer place to the troubled child. They help the parent show their child that they are doing their best to understand them and work out with them better ways for their child to understand and manage their own emotions, thoughts and behaviours. They aim to help the parent help their child believe that they really will keep on trying until they get along better.

Play therapy and sensory integration therapy have also been highly sought.

ACE has provided a range of courses including **Non Violent Resistance** and **Therapeutic Parenting** both funded by the ASF. As the ASF criteria have changed over the year it has enabled ACE to develop courses to ensure that adopters embed their learning. Courses are run over 4/5 days, with follow up sessions, leading to support/booster sessions. With NVR two additional consultation sessions are available during the year to support the family. The feedback from these events has been extremely positive...



In order to make an application to the ASF a social worker will need to complete an **assessment of need for adoption support services**. This will consider all possible sources of support to you as a family and an application to the ASF might not be appropriate in all cases.

All therapy provided by ACE / ASF requires **regular reviews** that include everyone involved. Reviews will discuss the impact of therapy, future intervention, whether ongoing therapy is still required and to review how families have embedded their learning within their family.

When an ASF application is submitted, social workers will ask your permission to include your contact details. The ASF occasionally uses these details to contact you for research purposes to ascertain adopters' views about the benefits and outcomes from therapy funded by the ASF.

The government has confirmed that ASF funding will be available until March 2020. Once we have confirmation from the Department for Education about funding beyond this date we will inform you.

Louise Hathaway
Operations Manager, Spokes