



Statement from the APPG Adoption and Permanence regarding the future of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund

After months of uncertainty around the future of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF), the Minister for Children and Families yesterday (Tuesday, 1st April) confirmed £50M for the Fund for the new financial year. This funding enables eligible adoptees and those with special guardianship orders to access crucial services such as therapeutic support, and specialist assessments.

Around 3,000 children in England are placed in adoptive families each year. Most have suffered abuse, neglect, or violence and spend an average of 15 months in care before adoption, often with a number of moves while in care, losing everything that is familiar to them along the way. It is common for adopted people to need support throughout their lives and the ASGSF provides a range of interventions that can help these children and young people navigate their early trauma.

The announcement yesterday came in response to significant efforts by families, agencies, charities, and parliamentarians who raised serious concerns about the damaging impact a funding lapse would have on children and young people. In recent months parliamentarians from across political parties have made representations to the Department for Education on behalf of constituents fearful about the impact the halt in therapy is having on their children.

Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Adoption and Permanence, Rachael Maskell MP, who was in chamber for the announcement, welcomed the statement, but urged the Minister to ensure young people impacted by delays in therapy as a result of the late confirmation would be given the support they need. Ms Maskell also called on the Treasury to ensure future funding decisions are made in a timelier manner, to avoid this happening again.

Evidence provided to the APPG for Adoption and Permanence's inquiry Investing in Families (2020) demonstrated the transformative impact the Fund had for many families. Adopters reported that the Fund helped prevent disruptions and ensured greater family stability, with 79% saying it met a need that could not be met elsewhere. Additionally, 90% of adopted children and young people said the support they received through the Fund had helped them a lot.

The Group will continue to work cross-party to ensure the details of the funding are announced quickly so that applications can be re-started, that Government

understands the impact the funding has on families, and to press for greater permanency to the Fund in future.

For queries or comment please email the APPG Adoption and Permanence secretariat:
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