



Department for Education

2025-0038070

**Josh MacAlister OBE MP
Minister for Children and Families**

Cllr Lisa Spivey
Leader, Gloucestershire County Council
By email: Georgia.Thomas2@gloucestershire.gov.uk

29 October 2025

Dear Cllr Spivey,

Thank you for your correspondences of 14 October, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF). I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

We appreciate the importance of ASGSF funding to many children and young people, as part of the wider support which local areas provide to adoptive and kinship families. Demand for support from the ASGSF continues to grow significantly, which is why, in order to maximise the number of children who are able to access the fund, we made the difficult decision to set the overall Fair Access Limit at £3,000. It is important to note that the ASGSF is continuing to fund Specialist Assessments up to the level of £2,500 but only within the overall FAL of £3,000. This change was made to ensure that the funding can continue to support as many families as possible.

The ASGSF is an important source of support for adopted children, but it is not the only source of adoption support available, for which local authorities (LAs) have statutory responsibility. Adoption England has been making some good progress in this area. To build on that success, we are funding them with £8.8million this year for specific projects, including £5 million for the improvement of adoption support. This includes ensuring that each child has an individualised adoption support plan, putting in place services that can respond more quickly and effectively to children in crisis, and the establishment of Centres of Excellence, which are multidisciplinary teams offering support across social care, education and health.

We are making £500 million additional funding available to LAs this year through Family Help to transform services and transition towards earlier intervention. Where needed, LAs can use some of this funding to support adoptive and kinship families, including increasing the amount of therapy available for children through the ASGSF. LAs and regional adoption agencies may also use their mainstream children's services funding to increase the amount of therapy available for children. LAs have statutory responsibility to provide adoption and kinship support services but how they do this is for local decision.

The department is working internally to confirm the detail of 2026 to 2027 and 2027 to 2028 budgets as soon as possible, following the Spending Review. We recognise and value the ASGSF and the positive impact it has on supporting families. That is why I am pleased to be able to confirm that applications for therapy that begin this financial year and continue into 2026 to 2027 can now be made, as part of a wider continuation of the Fund next financial year.

We are reviewing how best to deliver the fund in the future and will make a further announcement about future plans later in the Autumn. We will be engaging with key stakeholders to discuss options for the future of the ASGSF.

Thank you for writing. I hope that this response is useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh MacAlister". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Josh MacAlister OBE MP
Minister for Children and Families