



Department for Education

2025-0014430

**Janet Daby MP
Minister for Children and Families**

Ms Emily Frith,
CEO, Adoption UK

Dr Carol Homden CBE,
Chief Executive, Coram

Mr Santwinder Sandhu,
CEO, Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies

Dr Lucy Peake,
Chief Executive, Kinship

By email: sam.turner@kinship.org.uk

8 May 2025

Dear Ms Frith, Dr Homden, Mr Sandhu and Dr Peake,

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 April, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF). I am aware that in a meeting Baroness Smith agreed with Lord Laming that she would issue a reply to this correspondence, however, I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

I appreciate the concerns you have raised regarding the announcement of the reopening of applications for the ASGSF and the changes to the criteria. We have had to make a number of very difficult budgetary decisions, within the context of the overall funding available. While £50 million for financial year 2025 to 2026 is a substantial amount the decisions to amend the criteria were necessary in the face of ongoing increasing pressures.

I recognise that the changing of the name of the fund in 2023 does appear to have been a factor in increasing take up of the fund amongst kinship families, primarily those whose children are under Special Guardianship Orders. This is a positive outcome, given their longstanding prior eligibility for the ASGSF. However, this is far from the only pressure, which is why we have had to make changes this year.

The funding per child which is still available is a substantial amount of support. Where needed, local authorities and regional adoption agencies can use their own funding to increase the amount of therapy if this is needed. The Local Government Finance Settlement introduced two new grants for children and family services, providing over £500 million for preventative support. This nearly doubles the previous year's investment. The funding can prevent adopted children from returning to the care system by offering extra therapy beyond the new £3,000 limit.

As I have stated in Parliament, this government continues to be committed to funding for adoption and kinship support and recognises its ongoing importance. I am confident that the support will continue to be valued by children and families.

I recognise your commitment and dedication to working with adoptive and kinship families and appreciate your ongoing engagement with government. I very much look forward to future discussions. My office is already planning to set up a roundtable with key stakeholders to discuss a range of adoption issues, including the ASGSF.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Janet Daby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'D'.

Janet Daby MP
Minister for Children and Families