

Dear parents and carers

Thank you for embarking on this journey to give your child or children a forever home.

The information below is to provide information on who is classified as a previously looked after child, the role of the virtual school in respect of previously looked after children, funding available for previously looked after children and other organisations that support previously looked after children.

## **Previously Looked After Children- Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who are Previously Looked After Children?**

The Department of Education define Previously Looked After Children as those who:

“are no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales (as defined by the children Act 1989 or Part 6 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014)

because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement order; or were adopted from ‘state care’ outside England and Wales. ‘State care’ is care provided by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other organisation whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.”

### **What can Royal Borough of Greenwich do to help Previously Looked After Children?**

The role of Virtual School for previously looked-after children is to promote their educational achievement through the provision of information and advice to their parents, educators and others where necessary. Royal borough of Greenwich will:

- Offer advice and information to parents and signpost them to other services for advice and support if necessary.
- Offer advice and information to providers of early education, designated teachers in schools and providers of alternative provision in respect of individual previously looked after children.
- Make general advice and information available to early years settings and schools to improve awareness of the vulnerability and needs of previously looked-after children. This includes promoting good practice on identifying and meeting children’s needs and guidance on effective use of the PP+ funds.

### **How are Royal Borough of Greenwich Virtual School achieving this achieving this?**

Royal Borough of Greenwich Virtual school offers advice to parents and schools.

Whether you have a child that has been adopted, granted a Special Guardianship Order, a child arrangement order or are being looked after via a Kinship Care arrangement there may be times when you find that your child's/ children's lived experiences will require support.

### **What support is available?**

Pupil premium plus funding is available to schools for children from reception to Year 11 who left local authority care on a Child Arrangement Order, Special guardianship order or through adoption. This current academic year (2024 -2025) £2570 is available. For your child's school to access this you need to declare your child as being a Previously Looked after Child and they need to be recorded in the school October census. If your is not recorded in October their school will not be able to claim until the following academic year. This funding is not an individual budget for each child but should be spent on the cohort of children. The designated teacher at your child's school should seek the views of PLAC parents/ guardians on how this money should be spent and will be able to provide information on how this funding is being spent.

### **How can funding be discussed?**

Royal Borough of Greenwich recommend that schools hold an education planning meeting for PLAC children at least once per year. This provides parents/guardians with an opportunity to discuss the needs of their children and how pupil premium could be spent.

Templates for education meeting are on the Royal borough of Greenwich virtual school website.

### **Where can school find guidance on funding?**

Guidance for Designated teachers is available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a901d6ce5274a5e67567fc1/The\\_designated\\_teacher\\_for\\_looked-after\\_and\\_previously\\_looked-after\\_children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a901d6ce5274a5e67567fc1/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf)

## **Adoption and Special guardianship support fund (ASGSF).**

What is the adoption and special guardianship fund for?

To pay for essential therapeutic services for eligible children.

### **Who is eligible?**

The adoption and special guardianship support fund is available to some children being raised under a special guardianship order (SGO) or child arrangement order (CAO, formerly residence orders) or who have been adopted.

This includes children

- Up to the age of 21, or 25 with an education health care plan (EHC).
- Were in care before an SGO was made.
- Are under a residence order or CAO and were previously looked after.
- Left care under an SGO that was subsequently changed to an adoption order, or vice versa
- Were previously looked after but where the SGO, residency or CAO placement has broken down, regardless of any reconciliation plans.
- Adopted children who were previously looked after.

Full eligibility can be found on gov.uk

### **How can you apply?**

You will need to contact:

The parents of adopted children need to contact the adoption duty team.

[postadoptionsupportALS@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:postadoptionsupportALS@southwark.gov.uk)

0207 525 4491

The guardians of children being looked after under a Special Guardianship Order need to contact the fostering support team.

[Fostering.Duty@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:Fostering.Duty@royalgreenwich.gov.uk)

0208 921 2601

A social worker for the relevant team will then carry out an assessment and if successful an application will be made to the adoption fund.

### **Other organisations.**

#### **Adopt UK**

Adoption UK is the leading charity for adopted and care experienced people, adoptive families, and others parenting children who can't live with their birth parents.

Adoption UK, Bloxham Mill, Barford Road, Bloxham Banbury OX15 4FF

[Info@adoptuk.org.uk](mailto:Info@adoptuk.org.uk)

0300 666 0006

#### **Kinship Compass**

Kinship Compass provides advice and guidance to kinship carers, opportunities for kinship carers to connect with one and other and workshops on a range of kinship care issues.

The Foundry, 17 Oval Way London

0300123 7015

<https://compass.kinship.org.uk/>

#### **We are Family**

We Are Family is an independent peer-to-peer support community by adopters, for adopters. They provide parent and per support, host family gatherings, membership hub with a collection of expert webinars. Podcast produce in partnership with adopt London.

[hello@wearefamilyadoption.org.uk](mailto:hello@wearefamilyadoption.org.uk)

#### **BeGrand.net**

Website offering information and advice to grandparents, plus online and telephone advice.

[www.begrand.net](http://www.begrand.net)

Helpline: 0845 434 6835

### Grandparents Plus

Champions the role of grandparents and the wider family in children's lives, especially when they take on the caring role in difficult family circumstances.

Address: Grandparents Plus 18 Victoria Park Square Bethnal Green London E2 9PF  
[www.grandparentsplus.org.uk](http://www.grandparentsplus.org.uk) Tel: 020 8981 8001

### The Grandparents' Association

Supports grandparents and their families, especially those who have lost or are losing contact with their grandchildren because of divorce, separation or other family problems, those caring for their grandchildren on a full-time basis, and those with childcare responsibilities for their grandchildren.

[www.grandparents-association.org.uk](http://www.grandparents-association.org.uk)

Address: Moot House The Stow Harlow Essex CM20 3AG

Tel: 01279 428040

Helpline: 0845 434 9585

Welfare benefits advice and information: 0844 357 1033

Email: [info@grandparents-association.org.uk](mailto:info@grandparents-association.org.uk)

**Other useful information for Royal Borough of Greenwich information for family and friend's carers can be accessed via the link below**

[https://www.proceduresonline.com/greenwich/cs/files/family\\_friends\\_care.pdf](https://www.proceduresonline.com/greenwich/cs/files/family_friends_care.pdf)