

	Action/Date
Title/Status-	Policy
New document or revised	Revised
Date approved SMT	August 2018, review May2020 HoS, Dec22 HoS
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Service Children in Care, Adoption, Fostering, Placements and Virtual School
Date next review	February 2025

Policy and Guidance on the Use of Therapeutic Interventions for Children in Need, Looked After Children, Adopted Children and Their Families

1. Introduction

When it is identified via assessment that a child or young person or their families will require therapeutic services, consideration needs to be given about how best to meet this need i.e.

- Through community services
- School mentors
- CAMHS
- Completion of life story work by the child's social worker or another worker
- The Adoption Team or
- Another provision (There will be times when the need will be best met through a private provider).

To meet an assessed emotional or behavioral need where it is felt that a provider outside the County Council's direct provision is best placed to meet the need, a therapeutic intervention fund has been created. This budget is held centrally within the Children in Care Service.

The process utilises a fixed price 'Managed Cash Payment' system to enable families and carers, with social workers support and guidance, to identify an intervention that best meets their needs from the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapist's (BACP) approved practitioner list.

2. Legal Framework includes

- The Children Act 1989
- The Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005.
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations, Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (2010).
- The Care Planning and Fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2015

3. Funding Limits

The BACP has an Ethical Framework for Good Practice and a Professional Code of Conduct – both of which recommend a fair charging policy. They are available at the following web address: http://www.bacp.co.uk/ethical_framework/

It will be the responsibility of the Child's Social Worker to give his or her carer the following web address where a certified search of BACP registered therapists can be performed:

http://www.itsgoodtotalk.org.uk/therapists/advanced_search

This will allow the child/young person and parent/carer to identify the therapist best suited to the need as it presents. The child's social worker can assist in this search to ensure that the type of therapy provided is:

- Appropriate to meet the need, and
- Through an accredited therapist.

Where the child, young person or parent's worker has difficulty understanding the types of therapy and which will best meet the need, a consultation with the CAMHS officer can be booked through the Fostering, Adoption and Placement Service.

When the intervention is complete, the therapist will send an invoice **for the full amount** to the Placements Business Services team for payment at standard LCC terms. This can be sent to the following email address: fpsadmin@leics.gov.uk

4. The Approval Process

Where the need for post trauma or other therapeutic intervention has been identified, the Child's Social Worker or key worker will provide the nominated officer, Service Manager Children In Care with the necessary information (Templated attached as Appendix 1) to enable an informed decision to be made about need.

If approval is given, the worker will be responsible for notifying the child/young person, parent or carer, thereby authorising them to arrange the start of the therapy.

Arranging payment of invoices:

Once a provision has been agreed by the Service Manager for Children in Care, the provider should be provided with the following information by the social worker –

All invoices are dealt with by the Finance Service Centre (FSC) and the supplier would need to please send the paperwork themselves to leicsinvoices@emss.org.uk for processing.

They will need to add Angie Lymer-Cox name as authorising officer on the invoice and not include another workers name. They would also have to ensure the child to whom the service is being delivered is quoted in the invoice.

If there are then any payment queries and reasons for non-payment the FSC would liaise directly with the supplier to arrange payment. The FSC contact details are as shown below:

FinanceServiceDesk@emss.org.uk
0300 3030222 (option 1, option 1)

Appendix 1

Name(s):

Please send this form to the Service Manager for Children in Care

DoB: Age:

FWI: Legal Status:

SW: Team/Locality:

Carers Name(s): Relationship to Child:

1) What would you like for the child/children? (Type of Provision, Cost, Timescale)

2) Brief Summary of assessed needs. If the child is in care please include the reason for this. Include any diagnosed health issues and if there are any assessed additional educational needs. Is there an Education, Health and Care plan in place?

3) Are there currently any additional payments being made? If so, provide details of payment and where funded from.

4) Background (2-3 Paragraphs)

- 5) If the child is Looked After, please note the IRO comments about the proposed plan.
- 6) What work has the social worker completed to meet the therapeutic need *(Please describe direct work, life story work, Words and Picture and the impact this work has had)*.
- 7) Education - is the education provision providing counselling, mentoring, therapy etc.? If so, for what purpose?
- 5) Has funding or provision of this service been considered elsewhere?
- 6) Costs of Request

13) How long is the funding request for

Any Specialist reports to be considered? YES / NO
If yes, please send copies with this form.

Signed:..... **Dated:**.....
Social Worker

Signed:..... **Dated:**.....
Team Manager

Approved

Signed: **Dated:**
Service Manager

DECISIONS REGARDING: (insert name of child/ren)

Date of Decision:

Decisions:

Actions:

Nominated Officer Signature: **Dated:**.....



Positivity



Trust and respect



Flexibility



Openness and transparency