





## **Delivering Theraplay® commissioned via the Adoption Support Fund (ASGSF)**

This position paper is designed to provide guidance to practitioners, commissioners and funders regarding the delivery of Theraplay® through the Adoption Support Fund. Theraplay UK acknowledges that the guidance we give here may also be helpful to other commissioners of Theraplay across the UK. This includes people commissioning Theraplay in parts of the UK where the ASGSF is not available.

Theraplay UK and The Theraplay Institute, USA, cannot and does not assume any responsibility for the quality of practitioners' work. Practitioners are governed by the code of ethics and practice for their registering professional and/or statutory regulatory body (for example HCPC, Social Work England, UKCP, BACP) or through the regulatory systems of their employer. All practitioners should hold appropriate professional indemnity insurance. Any complaint about professional practice would be heard via a practitioner's registering professional body and/or statutory regulator. This is Theraplay UK's guidance for the commissioning of Theraplay in the UK. Commissioners of services must make their own judgement about the suitability of a service provider for the type of work they are commissioning.

Theraplay must be delivered in accordance with the Best Practice Agreement signed by all professionals who have attended Theraplay training in the UK since 2018. Click here for information <https://www.theraplay.org.uk/forms>.

To clarify the levels of training attended and certification awarded, the following table may be helpful:

Title to be used by practitioner	How the title is obtained
<p>Attended Level 1 training and/or attended Level 2 training <b>Attendance confers no qualification in Theraplay</b></p>	<p>Practitioners can say they are basing what they do on Theraplay principles.</p> <p>They cannot describe themselves as Theraplay Level 1 or Level 2 practitioners. They cannot say they are 'doing Theraplay'.</p>
<p>Enrolled on the Theraplay practicum (pre-Foundational Level) <b>No qualification in Theraplay but people are committed to a training process and are in a training supervision.</b></p>	<p>Practitioners can enrol on the practicum having completed a Level 1 training. Practitioners can say they are basing what they do on Theraplay principles.</p> <p>They cannot describe themselves as Theraplay Practitioners in training or on the practicum. They cannot say they are 'doing Theraplay' or that they are a Level 1/Level 2 Theraplay Practitioner/Therapist.</p>
<p><b>Foundational Theraplay Practitioner</b></p> 	<p>Practitioners can say they are using Theraplay Informed Practice and sign their work using the title 'Foundational Theraplay Practitioner'.</p> <p>Foundational level certification indicates that practitioners have attended Level 1 training, enrolled on the practicum and have been assessed by their own Theraplay UK approved Supervisor as able to apply the basics of the Theraplay model to children and families who are non-complex. Practitioners can continue to use Theraplay Informed Practice at Foundational level or, if they have an appropriate professional qualification, can continue to Intermediate level.</p>
<p><b>Intermediate Theraplay Practitioner</b></p> 	<p>Practitioners can say they are using Theraplay Informed Practice and sign their work using the title 'Intermediate Theraplay Practitioner'.</p> <p>Intermediate level certification indicates that practitioners have attended Level 1 and Level 2 training. They are developing further skills in working with more complex parents and complex situations. In addition to the ongoing evaluation of their work by their regular Theraplay Supervisor, their work has also been assessed by an external Certified Theraplay Supervisor to be awarded Intermediate certification status.</p>
<p><b>Certified Theraplay Practitioner</b></p> 	<p>Practitioners can say they are doing Theraplay and that they are a 'Certified Theraplay Practitioner'.</p> <p>Full certification indicates that people have attended Level 1 and Level 2 training and have successfully completed the Foundational, Intermediate and Full certification stages of the practicum. Their final assessment is undertaken by an independent Certified Theraplay Supervisor as well as their training Theraplay Supervisor continuing to provide ongoing assessment. Their understanding of Theraplay will be sophisticated and able to be adapted for the impact of relational and developmental trauma as well as other complex presentations. They will be able to provide a progressive treatment plan for a child and family that enables the child, supported by their parents/caregivers, to move towards a more developmentally appropriate relationship with others.</p>

\*Generally work commissioned from professionals and funded by the ASGSF is likely to have a high level of complexity.

For a full description of the Theraplay certification programme (the Practicum) look here:  
<https://www.theraplay.org.uk/certification>

**It is therefore Theraplay UK's view that:**

- Practitioners should make their level of training and/or Theraplay certification explicit from the outset. They should refer to their use of Theraplay and Theraplay Informed Practice appropriately throughout their work. We strongly recommend that commissioners ask for clarification of a practitioner's level of training and/or Theraplay certification.
- Practitioners should ideally be qualified to Intermediate level or above to be commissioned for complex work. Practitioners who are Intermediate certified should only use their Theraplay Informed Practice for ASGSF work, as a stand alone intervention modality, if they have a professional registration, are fully insured and are accessing Theraplay specific supervision with a Theraplay UK approved supervisor.
- People or services commissioning Theraplay from a Foundational certified practitioner should ascertain whether the practitioner has sufficient experience and/or other training to work with complex cases, and that they are receiving regular supervision from a Theraplay UK approved supervisor.
- Theraplay UK recognises that the current availability and pool of Theraplay trained practitioners is small in some geographical areas, and that there is a need for those who have attended Level 1 and Level 2 trainings to be able to gain experience with families. Therefore, at a minimum, any person providing an intervention which is 'based on Theraplay principles' should be receiving supervision from a Theraplay UK approved supervisor. Our intention here is to promote good quality training, and offer appropriate support and supervision of practitioners, which will in turn ensure good quality Theraplay practice with families.

Theraplay® UK Directors  
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