

## **Freedom Activity Support Payment (FASP) FAQ's**

Following feedback we have received from the EYPCF and support groups within East Riding regarding this year's FASP applications, we have developed some FAQ's to support parents and carers to apply.

- **Q- What is a FASP?**

*A- FASP is a one off payment of £400 paid in two parts which may be available to families living in the East Riding of Yorkshire to support children and young people whose special educational needs/ disabilities (SEND) prevents them accessing age appropriate social and leisure activities. Criteria applies, please see the supporting documents for more information <http://eastridinglocaloffer.org.uk/money-matters/freedom-activity-support-payment/>*

- **Q – Can I use the FASP for equipment at home or in the garden?**

*A – The FASP is designed to support children and young people with SEND to access social opportunities they may not have been able to without this support. Whilst the Government's proposed roadmap surrounding lifting restrictions identifies that many activities and events are re-opening in the year, we do recognise that some children and young people have been/are currently effected by the pandemic. We always encourage that parents and carers evidence that the payment will support families to access the community such as days out or accessing groups and activities, but we will also consider equipment at home where the application evidences the impact of COVID 19 on the child/young person's ability to venture from the home.*

- **Q- How will I be notified if I am/am not successful?**

*A- Once your application has been submitted it is processed and a decision is made based on the applications contents.*

*If you are successful you will receive an email notification informing you of this. If you are not successful you will receive an email highlighting why.*

- **Q- Why is there an age criteria to access the FASP?**

*A - The FASP is designed to enable children and young people between the ages of 7 – 18 years of age to access social and leisure activities within their local area that they would not otherwise be able to access. The East Riding local Offer <http://eastridinglocaloffer.org.uk/> sets out activities that children under the age of 7 can access and families may also wish to contact the FISH team for further information and signposting <https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/living/children-and-families/the-family-information-service-hub/>*

- **Q- What activities can FASP be used for?**

*A- Some examples maybe:*

***New opportunities where your child or young person will meet new people and develop friendships*** – *Joining groups, clubs and organisations, this could be weekly classes such as Endorphins, football clubs, swimming groups.*

***Days out either with friends or family*** – *Theme parks, local events such as fun days, picnics, going to the beach, museums or going out as family as examples.*

*Anybody applying for equipment at home based on the impact of COVID please see the above answered question “Can I use the FASP for equipment at home or in the garden?”*

*Following the feedback we have received from support groups about the use of the FASP payment, we will be adjusting this year’s monitoring forms to include a section that will ask for details of organisations/groups or services you have used the payment to access. This will support us to develop a catalogue of examples for future parent carers when applying for FASP whilst ensuring the Local Offer has the widest range of groups and organisations families found supportive.*

- **Q- Can the fund be used for digital socialising?**

*A- We ask that where possible the application identifies where the payment will support the child or young person to access social opportunities in the community. If the request is to support online socialising then we ask that it is made clear in the application why the payment will be used in this way.*

- **Q- Does the criteria need updating? Especially in light of Covid-19**

*A- Central Government has released details of the proposed restrictions being lifted between now and the summer break, whilst we acknowledge that COVID 19 is still having an impact on families, children and young people we ask that on application parents and carers make it clear as to why the pandemic will affect them using the payment for accessing the community, groups and events.*

- **Q- What is a short break?**

*A- <http://eastridinglocaloffer.org.uk/care-and-support/short-breaks-statement/> offers more information on shorts breaks.*

- **Q- Would an exercise bike meet the criteria or carting?**

*A- Only applying for an exercise bike would not meet the criteria for a FASP payment. Go Karting could meet the criteria where its evidenced it is something the child or young person could not usually access, or that it will provide an opportunity in the community with either friends, family or the opportunity to make new relationships (Go Karting as part of a club event)*

## Application Form Questions

- **Please give details of your child's disability.**

*We ask that you tell us about your child or young person's disability and how this impacts on their ability to access social events/activities in the community.*

- **What are the barriers to accessing age appropriate social and leisure opportunities for your child?**

*Here we ask parents and carers to demonstrate what the barriers are for them as a family, or for the child/young person to access activities and events going on in your community. Also what are the issues you face as parents and carers to support your children/young people to access social opportunities.*

- **Please give brief details of how you intend to use the FASP to support your child to access social and leisure opportunities:**

*This is where you can tell us how you intend on using the payment for the next year, this may be joining group activities such as Karate, swimming, horse riding etc. Accessing specific days out – Theme parks, picnics, days at the beach etc. Or as described above; if you are evidencing why a child or young person is not able to do this due to COVID 19 here is where you would evidence why.*

- **Have you consulted your child/young person on what they would like to use the FASP for?**

*We ask that parents (were possible) discuss and include the child or young person as part of the discussion when deciding on how the payment will be spent. If that is not possible then we ask you please indicate why this was not possible on the application.*

- **Do you receive support from any other services? (If you have answered yes, please provide further information)**

*We would like to know what other services are supporting your child/young person. For example this may be children's centre, youth and family support services, social work teams, etc.*

We do ask that all applications have bank details attached as any applications we receive without them may slow down the process of getting the payment to parents and carers.

If you are worried that you have submitted your application but without enough evidence don't worry, a member of our team will contact you to discuss what further information we require.

Anybody who is struggling to complete an application can call the 0-25 Team on 01482 394000 option 5 then option 2 were staff will support you.

