**Type of support offered as part of an FNSP:**

In some cases, FNSPs will be low-cost, short-term support that de-escalates need. However, some family networks might require higher-cost, ongoing support which could bring stability and avoid escalation of need.

The responsible lead professional should determine the appropriate support with the family and, as circumstances change the support offered by an FNSP could also change. Support could include, for example, wage subsidies, funding for food, travel costs, the provision of furniture or equipment. This list is not exhaustive.

As long as the baseline criteria are met, we aim to work collaboratively with families to be flexible, ambitious and think creatively on how the funding may be used.

**Low-cost, short-term support:**

An application for a Family Network Support Package can be made by the LP for one off, low cost (less than £1000) support services, such as;

* Furniture/white goods
* Transport (time limited and whole cost less than £1000)
* Cleaner/ironing
* Childcare provision for the children of the network member offering support.
* Food vouchers to the network member
* Cost of community-based activities for the purposes of respite
* Kennel/Cattery costs to support network member.
* Financial support for network members to have toys/ spare clothes for the child when they are supporting them.

**Higher-cost, ongoing support:**

If a Family Network Support Package identified is longer term and exceeds £1000 then agreement must be sought from the Family Network Support Package Panel. Examples include:

* Ongoing loss of earnings for a network member
* Changes to the home environment to safely enable a child to remain in the home environment.
* A combination of the services listed in section (a) which would amount to a higher cost over time.
1. **Monitoring and reviewing of budget/ spending**
* All FNSP applications will be screened for suitability to ensure appropriate distribution of public funds.
* The child must have an allocated lead professional at the point of application, and whilst funding remains in place
* For applications for ongoing financial support appropriate time parameters will be considered and regular reviews by the Lead Professional will be undertaken to ensure that funding remains appropriate.
* Where there are ongoing costs identified (such as those for loss of earnings) work should be undertaken with the family network to empower them to identify alternative ways to provide support once FNSP financial assistance comes to an end
* Any support packages which exceed £9,999 should be reviewed by an appropriate member of staff with knowledge of public procurement policy and LCC’s contract and procurement procedure rules.
* Regular budget monitoring will take place and if demand outweighs available funding then cases will be prioritised, using professional judgement based on presenting needs and urgency.
* FNSP funding is available until the end of the Families First for Children Pathfinder programme and cannot be guaranteed beyond this point.