

## Case Study #3

# ITS ALL ABOUT ME (IAAM) ADOPTION BOND (UK)

“It’s All About Me” (IAAM) is an innovative ten year scheme which aims to help these “harder to place” children to find permanent homes with therapeutically trained adoptive families.



## APPROACH

In the UK, approaching 3,000 children seeking adoption each year do not find a permanent home, creating further distress for already vulnerable children. Children who have been waiting for an adoptive family for more than a year are “harder to place”.

“It’s All About Me” (IAAM) is an innovative ten year scheme which aims to help these “harder to place” children to find permanent homes with therapeutically trained adoptive families. It is the first provider-led social impact bond in the UK, and was developed and delivered by a collaboration of Voluntary Adoption Agencies.

The main principle is that the bond pays out more at the start of the process than at the end; as the process of adoption nears successful completion, the Local Authority repays the funding, via its contract with the VAA. The SIB hence takes the initial risk of non-completion (up to a pre-defined level of 10%). As the process is working, local authorities repay the fund over several years, eventually paying about 50% more per adopted child than through the Inter-Agency Fee. This strategy enables VAAs to get additional resources to recruit adoptive parents for these children. The resources are used specifically to offer additional training to adoptive families, and where appropriate, to their support networks. The training is tailored to the specific needs of the child and the family and provided throughout the journey of the family.



## IMPACT

Social returns are predicted to be achieved at a rate of at least £2.6m for every £10,000 invested in the bond. Around 90% of these returns are projected to be cashable savings by the Local Authority, with wider benefits in the stable future lives of the children. The aim is to place up to an additional 300 children per year. The main savings to Local Authorities and the state are through saving the continued cost of children being in care, should families not be found.

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