

Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund

Introduction

1. All local authorities are required by the DfE to have an Inclusion Fund for 3 & 4 year olds with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are taking their early years entitlements. Funding is allocated to promote the inclusion of children who may require high levels of support within a pre-5 setting. This funding also support local authorities to undertake their responsibilities to strategically commission SEND services as required under the Children and Families Act 2014.
2. All early years providers that are eligible to receive funding for the 3 & 4 year old entitlements are eligible to receive support from the SEND Inclusion Fund. Bradford Local Authority currently also offers SEND inclusion funding to eligible 2 year olds, and will continue to do so in 2019/20, but this is non-statutory.
3. Local authorities are expected to target their Early Years SEND Inclusion Funds at children with lower level emerging SEND. 'Emerging SEND' is not defined within the DfE's guidance. We define this as children, assessed as requiring Wave 2 Interventions ([Early Years SEND Progress Grid](#) with assessed needs at the top of Range 2-3), who do not have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
4. At the point an EHCP is put in place for a child, the resources allocated via this EHCP will replace inclusion funding.
5. The Deprivation and SEND supplement within Bradford's Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) already allocates an amount of additional funding that providers should use to meet the needs of 3 & 4 year olds with emerging SEND. Additional grant funding is also available to support these children, including the Early Years Pupil Premium and the Disability Access Fund (DAF) grant. This funding must be utilised in the first instance prior to claiming inclusion funding.

Bradford – New Holistic Model:

6. Our Early Years Inclusion Fund model is established on the following basis:
 - Applications are made by providers on an individual child basis using a prescribe referral form. Providers are required to fully evidence that the needs of the child have been appropriately assessed, that the provider has already made adjustments to meet the child's needs and that the provider has also accessed all available resources (such as DAF). The referral form asks the provider to set out why additional funding is now required and the level of support (number of hours of support) requested. Evidence of needs-assessment must continue to link closely with Bradford's [Early Years SEND Progress Grid](#).
 - Decisions will be taken by a Panel.
 - This Panel will consider 4 matters in each application:
 - **Decision 1:** Whether, against the agreed criteria, the child is eligible for inclusion funding.
 - **Decision 2:** The number of hours (of the child's entitlement) support will be funded for.
 - **Decision 3:** The rate of funding per hour.
 - **Decision 4:** The number of terms (or weeks) that support is to be funded for and the expiry date.
7. **Decision 1** – the **eligibility criteria** are:
 - The provider must be registered with Ofsted on either the Early Years Register or the Childcare Register or must be legally exempt from this registration.

- Inclusion funding will only be allocated to children aged 2, 3 or 4 who
 - are taking their early years entitlements, up to a maximum of 15 hours (2 year olds) and 30 hours (3&4 year olds), and
 - are assessed, with submitted evidence, at “SEND Support” (top of Range 2-3) on Bradford’s [Early Years SEND Progress Grid](#), and
 - do not have an Education Health and Care Plan, and
 - are not placed in Early Years DSP provision or in a special school (as these places are already funded at a higher level).
- In their application, the provider must evidence:
 - that Wave 1 interventions (Quality First Teaching) are in place for all children and that a graduated response has taken place, evidencing a clear review process and the need for targeted Wave 2 Interventions as advised by professionals from appropriate services.
 - that the parent or carer of the child has been a partner in the whole process.
 - where appropriate, an EA1 Notification from Health has been received for the child.
 - where a child is newly arrived in the country, advice from other services (for example, Health Visitors, Paediatricians, Paediatric Therapists, and Pre-5 Service) has been gathered to support the request.
 - that the provider has exhausted all avenues of support available to them from within existing funding.
 - that reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of the child have already been made. This includes how the provider has used the DAF, if the child is eligible.
 - why existing staffing is insufficient to meet the child’s needs.

8. Decision 2 – The number of hours to be funded. The approach is as follows:

- The provider must set out in the application both the number of entitlement hours per week the child is taking with the provider as well as the number of hours per week the provider is requesting funded support for.
- Using the [Early Years SEND Progress Grid](#), the Panel will determine whether the provider’s request hours is accepted or amended.
- The Panel will assume that the weekly entitlement is delivered across 38 weeks per year and providers will be allocated monies on this basis.

9. Decision 3 – The rate of funding per hour, is set at a standard (maximum) of £6.32.

- The national SEND ‘Place-Plus’ funding framework is based on the financial definition of a ‘High Needs’ child being one whose education, incorporating all additional support, costs more than £10,000 per annum (1 FTE). This threshold lays the foundation of the definition of the financial responsibility that schools, academies and other education providers have for meeting the needs of children from their delegated budgets.
- Schools are required to meet the first £10,000 of cost for children with SEND, both with and without EHCPs, from their core formula-funded budgets. This £10,000 is separated in the national model into Element 1, at a value of £4,000 per 1 FTE (25 hours) and Element 2, at a value of £6,000 per 1 FTE (25

hours). Element 1 £4,000 represents the core funding that all pupils attract. In the Early Years Single Funding Formula, Element 1 is allocated through the Setting Base Rates, which in 2019/20 are £5.20 for 2 year olds and £4.11 for 3 & 4 year olds. Element 2 £6,000 is the contribution that schools are required to make from their 'notional SEND' budgets, which are derived from additional funding allocated using proxy indicators of additional needs, such as deprivation and low prior attainment. Element 2 is not present in the Early Years Single Funding Formula, although the Deprivation and SEND supplement within the 3 & 4 year old formula does allocate a small amount of additional funding. As a result, the function of the Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund is to allocate Element 2 funding to children with emerging SEND.

- So we define Element 2 as an amount per child per hour as follows:

$\text{£6,000} / 25 \text{ hours (1 FTE)} / 38 \text{ weeks} = \text{£6.32 per hour}$. So, for example:

A child with 5 hours of support = $\text{£6.32} \times 5 \times 38 = \text{£1,201}$

A child with 15 hours of support = $\text{£6.32} \times 15 \times 38 = \text{£3,602}$

10. **Decision 4** – The number of weeks or terms that support is to be funded for and the expiry date. This would be determined by the Panel, taking account of the pupil's age, needs-assessment and timescale for transfer into reception. We would typically expect the time period to be expressed in terms e.g. 1, 2 or 3 terms and we would expect all funding decisions to be reviewed at least annually. Funding would cease immediately where a child leaves a provider or where an EHCP is put in place.