

Consultation on

Early Years Special Education Needs (SEN) Inclusion Fund:

Funding Arrangements for 1 September 2019- 31 July 2020

Consultation on: Consultation on Early Years Special Education Needs (SEN) Inclusion Fund:

Funding arrangements for 2019-20

Summary: The consultation sets out proposals for the Staffordshire County Councils Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund which will be implemented from 1 September 2019. This consultation is required by regulations made under the education legislation relating to the operation of school budgets by local authorities.

Deadline: All responses must be received by **17 May 2019**.

Responses to: send.tippingst@staffordshire.gov.uk

Consultation on The Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund

What is the SEN Inclusion Fund?

As part of the Governments [Early Years National Funding Formula](#), Local Authorities (LA's) are required to establish an SEN Inclusion Fund for 3 and 4 year olds with special educational needs who are accessing their free entitlement. The funds are intended to enable local authorities to work with early years providers to meet the needs of individual children with SEN to support children's learning and development. National guidance also states LA's should target the fund at children with "lower level or emerging SEN."

Local authorities must consult with early years providers to set the value of their local SEN Inclusion Fund. In Staffordshire this fund is currently called the Additional Educational Needs (AEN) funding.

Who are we consulting with?

This consultation is aimed at early years providers who deliver funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds (schools, day nurseries, pre-schools and childminders) and primary schools, in relation to the Transition Funding for children. The consultation will also be sent to parents and carers and professionals working in the early years sector.

The consultation period runs until 17 May 2019

Our proposal – what we are planning to do

In 2017-18, £473,000 of funding was awarded and a total of 375 children were supported. The number of children supported has been increasing in recent years. The current way of allocating funding has been reviewed with comparisons made with other local authority areas. Due to the level of demand and available funding, a new mechanism for funding allocations will be introduced. Any agreed funding will be provided as a fixed amount which will be a contribution towards the costs of providing additional support for a child with SEN. Our aim will be to ensure that we are able to provide funding for children with the greatest need. We propose to set the initial value of the SEN Inclusion Fund at **£479,950 per annum**.

The new system will be in place from 1 September 2019.

The new system will be piloted in the first year from 1 September 2019 - 31 July 2020.

Before an application is made to the SEN Inclusion Fund providers must have undertaken an assessment of an individual child, put in place existing resource to support a child's SEN and consulted with external services.

What are the Funding Criteria?

Child's age	Evidence that the child is working in the following Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) range in two of the three prime areas (communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development)		
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
24 – 29 months	<i>secure within 8 – 20 months or higher</i>	<i>Emerging or developing within 8 – 20 months or lower</i>	<i>0 – 11 months</i>
30 – 41 months	<i>16 – 26 months or higher</i>	<i>8 – 20 months or lower</i>	<i>Emerging or developing within 8 – 20 months or lower</i>
42 – 47 months	<i>Secure within 16 – 26 months or higher</i>	<i>Emerging or developing within 16 – 26 months or lower</i>	<i>8 – 20 months or lower</i>
48 – 54 months	<i>Secure within 22 - 36 months or higher</i>	<i>Emerging or developing within 22 - 36 months or lower</i>	<i>Emerging or developing within 16 – 26 months or lower</i>

- In 2017-18 the distribution of funding was:
 - 37% of the funding went to children with lower level needs
 - 48% of the funding went to children with medium level needs
 - 15% of the funding went to children with high/complex level needs
- The SEN Inclusion Funding will not be available until the term after a child's second birthday (in line with Think2). In 2017-18 two children were funded for one term before their second birthday.

What are the Funding levels?

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Lower level needs will be met by the settings through the setting's own resources as part	<i>£1,231/year Paid pro rata</i>	<i>£2,671/year Paid pro rata</i>

<p>of their graduated response. Much of this support will be provided through differentiation of the curriculum and reasonable adjustments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Under 15 hours attendance - Funding allocations will be pro-rated for less than 15 hours attendance</i> • <i>30 hours entitlement- Additional 15 hours for those entitled to 30 hours will be paid at 50% of the awarded rate</i>
---	---

The funding will provide a contribution to support the needs of the child. Funding will be a fixed lump sum based on the level of need of the child and their current attendance. Funding applications will be considered at Early Years Forum Funding meetings which will occur each half term. Funding allocations will be made for one or two terms, depending on level of need.

30 hours entitlement - For children entitled to 30 hours the prime setting will be able to apply for either funding for the first 15 hours. Funding for the second 15 hours, whether at a secondary setting or at the same setting can be applied for but the funding will be half of either Tier 2 or 3 funding.

Review of children - Children at Tier 2 will be reviewed termly. Those at Tier 3 will be reviewed every two terms. The rationale is that children with the higher level of funding will have more long-term difficulties.

In order to ensure that public funds are used effectively, and funding achieves its intended purpose, the Early Years Forum will monitor how funding is used and seek clear evidence of impact.

After 2 cycles of funding at Tier 3 the Early Years Forum will consider whether additional services are required or consider requesting an Education and Health Care Needs Assessment.

Transition Funding

For children receiving Tier 2 and 3 funding moving into reception, a termly allocation of the lump sum payment the child is receiving, in the summer term before school, will be paid to the school in the first term. For children attending settings for 15 hours this will be doubled to reflect full time attendance. This will be a one-off payment.

What is the process for making applications?

Early years providers must complete an [application form](#) available on the SEND Local Offer providing information on the child's special educational needs, the support that has already been provided by the setting, an assessment of the child against the funding criteria together with any supporting evidence.

From 1 September 2019 application forms will be completed and submitted through the portal.

Applications to the fund will be considered by the Early Years Forum.

Consultation on Early Years Special Education Needs (SEN) Inclusion Fund

Name		
Name of Organisation		
Type of Organisation (Please indicate in the relevant box)	Early Years Provider	
	Primary School	
	Parent/Carer	
	Other – please detail below:	

1. Do you agree with the value of the SEND Inclusion Fund?

YES/NO – please delete as appropriate

2. Do you agree with the Funding Criteria?

YES/NO – please delete as appropriate

3. Do you have any comments? – please outline below

Thank you for participating in this consultation. Please return your completed form by **5pm 17 May 2019** to: send.tippingst@staffordshire.gov.uk