

Local Inclusion Fund - Inclusion Supplement Criteria

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Who can apply for inclusion funding for Early Years children?

Any Private, Voluntary, Independent and School providers based in Worcestershire who offer Early Years provision who are not currently judged as Inadequate or Requires Improvement by Ofsted. The Early Years settings must provide places for children presenting additional needs and/or disabilities aged from 0-5 years old.

PLEASE NOTE:

If a child is in receipt of NEF Funding (2, 3- and 4-year-olds) and you are applying for GR1, GR2, GR3 and GR4 then the inclusion supplement should be applied for via the Provider Portal and payments will be included within the Actual NEF payments.

Applications are required on the Inclusion Funding Application form for:

- 0-5 non-NEF – for children who are not yet accessing their NEF due to their age or for children attending Ofsted registered Early Years provision who are not off the NEF
- Challenge to GR4 – where a child is in receipt of GR4 but the setting wishes to request a ‘top up’ based on the child’s needs and one to one staffing requirements throughout the majority of the sessions.
- Exceptional Early Years Funding

On-line applications can also be made via Microsoft Forms and the links to each terms on-line form will be displayed within the F for Funding page of the inclusion teams A-Z of resources: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/WCFEducationServices/info/31/early-years-inclusion/67/early-years-inclusion-z-resources/3>

Applications:

- The budget makes it necessary for the funding panel to **prioritise those children** with the most complex needs to ensure they receive the support they require.
- Funding awarded for 0-5 non-NEF is for one term only; settings need to reapply for subsequent terms.
- Funding awarded for exceptional and GR4 challenge are awarded for the current term and the remaining terms in that academic year. A monitoring form must be completed and returned for each subsequent term for that terms funding to be released.
- Failure to gain parental/carers signed consent for funding applications will result in the application being rejected.

- Funding will be allocated based on the number of NEF hours accessed to a maximum of 15 hours per week (term time) or 30 hours if parents are in receipt of a 30-hour code
- Please note while every application for funding will be given full consideration, there is no guarantee that every request will be met.
- Please note: no applications for retrospective funding will be considered; only applications for the existing or subsequent terms will be considered.

Purpose of funding:

- The funding is to enable the inclusion of children aged with additional needs and/or disabilities in settings.
- It is designed to provide financial support to aid the full inclusion of a child in the setting, and to support the early years setting in meeting the child's needs. **It is a contribution towards the costs incurred by early year's settings.**

Criteria for Children aged 0-5 not in receipt of NEF:

- Child **is not accessing** Nursery Education Funding and requires support within Code of Practice Categories (Please see EYSFF Inclusion Supplement guidance).
- Child access NEF term time only, and the setting wish to continue the same level of support and inclusion funding during the holiday periods (i.e. NOT children who are accessing stretched NEF funding.)
- A **maximum of 15 hours per week** funding will be considered (budget allowing.)
- Child is impacting significantly on supervision of other children and requires more support with intensive interventions.
- Child meets criteria for GR3 or higher (applications for GR1 and GR2 will not be considered due to budget restraints)
- A child has a complex medical need which requires close observation.
- Child is not yet diagnosed with a special need or disability, but processes are in place for assessment.
- Allocation of additional funding is supported in writing by other specialist external agencies
- Child is looked after with significant undiagnosed attachment difficulties
- Setting has provided evidence of significant negative impact on financial sustainability of childcare provision.

Overview of levels can be downloaded here: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/WCFEducationServices/download/downloads/id/157/wcf-local-inclusion-fund-overview-of-gr-levels.pdf>

Criteria for Early Years GR4 Challenge Funding

- Child **must** be in receipt of GR4 Funding and termly monitoring form required
- **Must be in place:** The setting must demonstrate that one to one staffing has been put in place (or will be put in place) for the named child for the following hours. (Staff rota's demonstrating additional staffing when child attends.)

% of Funding to be awarded	Must be in place: 15 hours Entitlement	Must be in place: 30 hours Entitlement	EYFS Early Support Level: 0- to 2-year-olds	EYFS Early Support Levels 3- and 4-year-olds	Impact on setting / level of staffing (e.g. behaviour requiring intensive support)	Type of Specialist Provision Attended
100%	All the NEF hours attended e.g., up to 15 hours	All the NEF hours attended e.g., up to 30 hours	0-11 in all 4 areas	0-11 months in at least 2 areas	Setting Positive Coping/Support Plan is in place due to significant behaviours that are impacting on all children and potential attendance	Split placement with Nursery Assessment Unit / Nursery Plus
75%	11.25 hours	22.5 hours	0-11 in at 2 or 3 areas 8-20 in all 4 areas	0-11 months in at least 1 area 8-20 in at least 3 areas	Child has significant health/Physical Disabilities needs that require a high level of staffing to administer support and medication	Specialist Language Unit. Percentage awarded based on ES level
50%	7.5 hours	15 hours	0-11 in 1 area 8-20 in 2-3 areas	8-20 in at least 2 areas	Child has significant health/Physical Disabilities needs that require a high level of staffing to administer support and medication	Specialist Language Unit. Percentage awarded based on ES level
25%	3.75 hours	7.5 hours	8-20 in 1 area	8-20 in at least 1 area	Child has significant health/Physical Disabilities needs that require a high level of staffing to administer support and medication	Specialist Language Unit. Percentage awarded based on ES level

Further support is available by calling the Early Years Inclusion helpline on 01905 843099 or by visiting the [Early Years website \(opens in new window\)](#)

Criteria for Exceptional Early Years Funding

The decision of whether a child meets the criteria for the Exceptional Early Years Funding will be made by the Early Years Inclusion Funding Panel and must be supported by the Preschool Forum.

General criteria: ALL TO BE PRESENT

- Child must be attending an Ofsted registered provider or have an education health care plan (EHCP) that supports education in the home.
- Child must be known to the pre-school forum and the application must be supported by the chair
- Child must be eligible for and be in receipt of the Graduated Response 4 inclusion supplement.
- Setting must be registered as good or outstanding with Ofsted

Specific criteria: AT LEAST ONE TO BE PRESENT

- Child is in pre-school year and has delayed entry into Reception (with the support of Preschool Forum) for one calendar year and demonstrates an exceptional level of need over and above that which is available via the EYSFF Inclusion Supplement Graduated Response 4.
- The child is in pre-school year has deferred entry into Reception (with the support of Preschool Forum) for a term or terms and demonstrates an exceptional level of need over and above that which is available via the EYSFF Inclusion Supplement Graduated Response 4.
- The child has an education health care plan / statutory assessment in place or is the process of having an EHC plan written.
- The child is in their pre-school year and would benefit from accessing specialist nursery assessment provision (not including language units) as recommended by the pre-school forum, whose parents have opted to access mainstream provision, or a place is not available due to capacity of the provision.
- Children who require a high level of supervision due to their medical needs, as advised the Children's Community Health Commissioning Team.
- Highest level of supervision recommended within early years setting by Worcestershire Children First visual impairment team to support children with little or no vision.
- British Sign Language is the child's first language, and a British sign language trained support worker has been recommended by the Worcestershire Children First hearing impairment team.
- An exceptional level of need exists as recommended by pre-school forum or physical disabilities outreach team

- Specialist equipment has been recommended within early years provision has been recommended by specialist teams (visual impairment / hearing impairment / multi-sensory impairment / physical disabilities outreach team). Equipment ONLY to be provided – child will not be eligible for exceptional unless EHCP is in place or other criteria met.

Use of Additional Funding

- Funding is provided in the main to increase staff ratios so that the named child receives intensive interventions for the nursery education funded (NEF) hours claimed. This will always be up to a maximum of 15 hours per week, term time only (30 hours if child is eligible for extended entitlement). Settings are encouraged to use the funding creatively to support the child's progress and to follow recommendations from specialist services.
- Funding should also contribute towards the time spent on planning for the child with special needs and disabilities, and appropriate specialist resources. (Not inclusive of equipment provided by the physical disabilities outreach team.)

Process

1. Early years settings must complete the Local Inclusion Fund Application Form or the on-line application form indicating the 'Exceptional Early Years Funding' in the appropriate box, for consideration at the early years funding panels. The application MUST be supported by the Preschool Forum. Application form is downloadable from the following page:
[Early years inclusion A to Z of resources - Worcestershire Children First Education Services](#)
2. The early years inclusion team will liaise with the early years settings to inform them of the outcome of Exceptional Early Years Funding application.
3. Settings will adjust the level of need on the Provider Portal to reflect the agreed level of need.
4. Payments will be made either as an adjustment in next terms budget or within the actual payment run, dependant on the date of the decision.
5. The early years inclusion team will monitor the use and impact of the funding provided, following the monitoring process set out on page 5 of the Local Inclusion Fund Guidance.
6. Failure to return the monitoring form will result in delayed payment.

Supporting Inclusive Practice in Out of School and Holiday Childcare Settings for School Aged Children

Who can apply?

Any Private, Voluntary, Independent and School providers based in Worcestershire who offer provision during the holiday periods or out of school term time places for children presenting additional needs and/or disabilities aged from 5-19 years old may apply for funding using the Inclusion Funding Application or on-line application process.

- Provider must not be currently judged Inadequate or Requires Improvement by Ofsted
- **This grant is to enable the inclusion of children aged 5 – 19 years with additional needs and/or disabilities in out of school and holiday settings.**
- **It is designed to provide financial support to increase staffing ratios in the setting to meet children's needs.**

Applications:

The budget makes it necessary for the funding panel to prioritise those children with the most complex needs to ensure they receive the support they require. A maximum of 15 hours per week, per child will be considered (budget allowing).

Please note:

- while every application for funding will be given full consideration, there is no guarantee that every request will be met in full.
- no applications for retrospective funding will be considered; only applications for the existing or subsequent terms or holiday periods will be considered.

Purpose of funding is to increasing staffing ratios to meet the needs of the individual children:

- Applications can be made for contributions towards the cost of increased staffing ratios (where appropriate) to meet children's needs.
- Funding is based on an hourly rate of £6.50 per hour as a contribution towards the additional staffing. Childcare settings are expected to use standard fees towards the cost of staffing and make additional contributions to the costs, as set out in the 2010 Equality Act.
- **Please note: the cost of additional staffing for children with additional needs can not be passed onto the parents/carers.**

- At the discretion of the panel, exceptions may be made to the amount of funding awarded to allow for such issues as the number of children attending a setting with complex disability and additional needs.
- It is good practice for children with additional needs/disability to have a Key Person who is a member of the established staff team. The employment of additional staff should allow the Key Person to focus on the needs of the child with additional needs.

How the funding will be assessed:

- The panel will consider:
- The needs of each individual child.
- How the application will help your setting offer a more inclusive service.
- How the funding will benefit the children and your provision
- How the funding will be spent in the setting
- How any previous funding has been used, spent and monitored.
- If additional Local Authority funding has been received from other sources (e.g., Short Breaks)

By accessing this funding, settings agree to the following conditions:

- The setting agrees to monitoring visits from relevant professionals.
- The setting agrees to spend all monies received by the end of the financial year, and to provide details of how it was spent.
- The setting agrees to complete and return a Monitoring Form with any future funding applications.
- The setting agrees to return any unspent money or to return funding allocated if a child leaves the setting before the commencement or during the funding period.
- The setting agrees to carry out agreed actions detailed on the Early Years and Childcare Service visit summary. Failure to complete these actions within the agreed timescale may result in removal or reduction of funding previously awarded. The funding panel will be responsible for making this decision.
- The funding awarded may only be used for the purposes stated and by signing the application form you are agreeing to the above terms and conditions.