

FAQs From Market Engagement Events

Enhanced Early Years Provision in South Worcester

Is the proposal very similar to a Nursery Plus Model?

There are some similarities however the enhanced provision will not be an in and out model it will provide flexible provision 51 weeks of the year to provide a nursery education for working parents whose children have complex needs.

Kidderminster and Batchley will continue to run an in and out model whilst we make longer term decisions about the county wide provision.

Is this new model instead of the nursery assessment units?

Fort Royal is not operating a nursery currently. Fort Royal nursery assessment unit operating times were between 9am - 3pm as an assessment class / unit. The Enhanced Early Years Provision is intended to operate to help working parents. The cohort of children we would expect to be referred and attend the Enhanced provision are some of those which previously attended the NAU delivered by Fort Royal.

Does the LA want other Enhanced Provision sites in other districts?

Yes, if this works. This is a trial so the LA would work very closely with the provider or providers that are successful.

How will pupils be selected for places in the enhanced early years provision?

Places will be assessed on the needs of the children and will be discussed at a multi-disciplinary meeting, similar to Pre School-Forum but under a new format. Providers wouldn't necessarily need to attend the meetings. The LA would be the decision maker.

What happens to the complex children that do not meet the criteria for the Enhanced Early Years Provision, who would have previously accessed the NAU service offer, and remain within a mainstream provision to access their NEF entitlement? What additional support will they receive?

This is being reviewed currently. The LA's view is that these children can have their needs met within mainstream, but we acknowledge that support is needed for this to be successful. The LA are currently reviewing what additional support looks like.

What ratio of staffing are the LA looking for?

It is expected that providers will consider this as part of their bid. However, the LA are imagining 1:1, 1:2 or 1:3. The LA is aware that these children may need more floor space, so it's possible that if providers are approved for 10 places, they may assess that they can only offer places for 6 children. The LA are looking for providers to be creative in any bids they make, it could therefore look different from provider to provider. For example, wrap around care or summer club could be offered to meet the expected times. Getting the right staff and retaining them. Staffing must be available to cover sickness or annual leave, as it is discrimination to not allow a child to attend as their 1:1 cannot be met.

What level of TA is the expectation as a one to one as this will be reflected in hourly costs?

Minimum level 2, however part of the 'tender application' is looking at how the provider intends to measure quality beyond that of a desired qualification.

Are professional fees for example to purchase specialist reports included in the £10K or will the council provide extra funding?

It is expected that the provider pays for reports from professionals which they choose to ascertain for evidence as part of the code of practice and local offer option. However, the local authority will provide sufficient 'free at point of contact' professional reports when needed for the evidence for EHCNA. If providers choose an alternative, it is at their own cost.

Funding – child numbers are likely to be initially lower or there may be a period where there are less referrals, would the funding still be available to be able to retain staff?

The £10K per place is offered to all FTE places regardless of referrals.

Funding – What are providers next steps?

Providers would be expected to deliver a fully costed proposal within any tender application.

Are providers able to shadow or visit enhanced provisions?

Yes, Dudley is delivering a similar service.

It is also possible to visit special school settings to understand how they adapt to the child's needs and what the environment and equipment entails.

Would the LA consider applications on providers wanting to close mainstream settings and open enhanced settings?

Sufficiency will be a consideration.

If parent carers want their children to remain in mainstream even though they meet the requirements for Enhanced is this still an option.

This will be a parental decision.

What happens if the enhanced provision or mainstream providers accept placement but cannot meet the child's needs?

Providers to outline what services would be required to meet the individual's needs.

Funding – what happens if the NEF Government funding increases?

Response being formed.

Will the Enhanced Early Years Provision take children who have deferred or delayed their school entry?

Response being formed.