

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 providers 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 (under 2s, 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 of 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 provider 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 be made via Worcestershire Early Years Inclusion Team Funding page. [Early Years Inclusion | Worcestershire County Council](#)

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; providers 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 working families entitlement
- 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 providers.
- It is designed to provide financial support to aid the full inclusion of a child in the provider, and to support the early years provider in meeting the child's needs. **It is a contribution towards the costs incurred by early year's providers.**

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).
- A **maximum of 15 hours per week** funding will be considered (budget allowing.)
- Child meets criteria for GR3 or higher (applications for GR1 and GR2 will not be funded, and treated as information only for graduated response)
- 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/ care experienced and may experience additional challenges to accessing the EYs environment
- provider has provided evidence of significant negative impact on financial sustainability of childcare provision.

Overview of levels can be found on the Early Years Inclusion funding page [Early Years Inclusion | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Criteria for Early Years GR4 Challenge Funding

- Child **must** be in receipt of GR4 Funding and termly monitoring form returned
- **Must be in place:** The provider must demonstrate that additional support has been put in place to meet needs. This could include smaller group targeted support and additional adult support at 1:1 ratio for parts of the day to meet need, as documented in their individual support/provision plans.

Must be on roll at EYs provision	EYFS Early Support Level: 0- to 2-year-olds	EYFS Early Support Levels 3- and 4-year-olds	Impact on provider / level of staffing (e.g. needs that require intensive support to increase access to NEF entitlement/medical needs that require high level of adult support)
Working towards all the NEF hours attended and/or children in receipt of 0-5 funding	0-11months in all 4 areas/ or in Steps 1 to 3 in all areas	0-11 months in at least 2 areas /or in Steps 1 to 3 in at least 2 areas	Support Plan is in place due to significant needs that are impacting on all areas of the provision; learning, development, EYs environment and NEF entitlement. And / or Child has significant health/Physical Disabilities needs that require a high level of staffing to support and/or administer medication

The link to apply can be found on the Early Years Inclusion funding page [Early Years Inclusion | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Further support is available by calling the Early Years Inclusion helpline on 01905 843099 or by visiting [Early Years Inclusion | Worcestershire County Council](#)



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 Team, based on the information submitted by the provider.

General criteria: ALL TO BE PRESENT

- Child must be attending an Ofsted registered provider or have an education health care plan (EHCP).
- Child must be known to the Early Years Inclusion Process (via the Early Years Notification Process).
- Child must be eligible for and already have been in receipt of the Graduated Response 4 inclusion supplement.
- Provider must be registered as good or outstanding with Ofsted.

Specific criteria: AT LEAST ONE TO BE PRESENT

- The child has an Education, Health and Care Plan in place or has had an agreement for statutory assessment in line with the SEND Code of Practice.
- The child would benefit from accessing an enhanced Early Years provision (not including language units) as recommended by the Early Years Inclusion Team, whose parents who have chosen a different provider, 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 by Health professionals, for example Continuing Health Care.
- Highest level of supervision required in their provision, as recommended by Worcestershire County Council 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 County Council Deaf Support Team.
- An exceptional level of need exists as identified by the Early Years Inclusion Team or Physical Disabilities Outreach Team.



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. Providers 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 educational needs and disabilities, and appropriate specialist resources.

Specialist equipment as advised by the physical disabilities outreach team

- This is funded separately to the Inclusion Supplement. Health professionals will inform the Early Years Inclusion Team.

Process

1. Early years providers must complete the Local Inclusion Fund on-line application form indicating the 'Exceptional Early Years Funding' in the appropriate box, for consideration by the Early Years Inclusion Team, The application MUST be supported by the Early Years Inclusion Notification (EYIN). Application form is downloadable from the Early Years Inclusion funding page [Early Years Inclusion | Worcestershire County Council](#)
2. The Early Years Inclusion Team will liaise with the early years providers to inform them of the outcome of Exceptional Early Years Funding application.
3. Providers will adjust the SEN Weighting 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, dependent on the date of the application.
5. The Early Years Inclusion Team will monitor the use and impact of the funding provided, using the monitoring forms as submitted termly by providers.
6. Failure to return the monitoring form could result in delayed or ceased payment the following term