

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF MEMBER DELEGATED DECISION

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE EARLY YEARS SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA (EYSFF) SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS INCLUSION FUNDING (SENIF) FOR THE FUNDING OF UNDER 2's, 2, 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

Key Decision	Yes
Date Of Decision	20 February 2026
Decision Maker	Councillor Dr Stephen Foster CMR for Education and SEND
Brief Description Of Decision	<p>(a) noted the changes for the funding of Early Years (EY) Special Education Needs Inclusion Funding (SENIF) for eligible children who are 9 months – 4 years old, from April 2026;</p> <p>(b) noted the DfE national allocation formula for the EY Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2026-27;</p> <p>(c) had regard to the consultation undertaken in October, November, and December 2025 in relation to the Early Years (EY) Special Education Needs Inclusion Funding (SENIF);</p> <p>(d) noted the consultation outcomes and feedback in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report;</p> <p>(e) noted the involvement of the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) members and EY providers during the consultation;</p> <p>(f) noted the views of the consultees on the proposed changes to the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF), Special Education Needs Inclusion Funding (SENIF) for eligible children aged 9 months to 4 years old, Appendices 1 and 2;</p> <p>(g) approved the changes to the existing EYSFF SENIF from April 2026 to apply for 2026-27</p> <p>(h) authorised the Director of Children's Services to make the necessary arrangements to implement the changes to the existing EYSFF SENIF from April 2026 and other matters as required.</p>
Reason(s) For Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Local Authority (LA) have been working with providers and members of the Worcestershire Schools Forum with Early Years experience for the last two years on the best way to support the needs of the most complex SEND children.• Continual feedback has suggested that the funding levels for these children has meant that they have not been able to

	<p>access the full or any of the entitlement they are eligible to receive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system was complex and caused confusion on the appropriate funding level for the children within the nursery provision.
Alternative Options Considered And Rejected	The only alternative option was to retain the existing system; however, sector feedback indicated that it was overly complex. Also, the current system does not provide sufficient mechanisms to support the effective management of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted	None
Signature of Decision Maker	Cllr Stephen Foster
Date of Implementation of Decision	27 February 2026