


Funding process conversation 18th and 20th March 2026

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Inclusion Support Services

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Intentions for session

- Give an overview of new criteria with updates, and funding rates
- Review interim steps for funding Summer Term
- Key messages following questions from sector
- Update re: monitoring process
- Questions
- Dates for next session

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Criteria and levels –changes in bold

	Criteria	Hourly rate of Inclusion Supplement
Emerging SEND	<p>The monitoring at this level of funding will be through the NEF audit process, as well as through the EY Inclusion Team setting support.</p> <p>Building evidence towards 2 rounds of graduated response with evidence of 2 planned small group activities or 2 planned individual activity per session in place.</p> <p>The child is known to one other service, or on the waiting list for the service, e.g. SaLT, Health (OT, Physio, CAMHS), PD Outreach, Virtual School, Inclusion Support Services</p> <p>Child does not have an EHCP in place</p>	£0.50

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	Criteria	Hourly rate of Inclusion Supplement 3 and 4 years	Hourly rate of Inclusion Supplement 2-3 year olds	Hourly rate of inclusion supplement for under 2year olds
Level 1	<p>The child is known to the Early Years Inclusion Process.</p> <p>Child requires <u>additional</u> resources to ensure SEND needs are met as outlined in recommendations from at least 1 external professional e.g. SALT, ISS</p> <p>At least three rounds of graduated response, which incorporates advice from other professionals</p> <p>Child does not have an EHCP in place</p>	£4.35	£2.31	£0.50

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	Criteria	Hourly rate of Inclusion Supplement 3 and 4 years	Hourly rate of Inclusion Supplement 2-3 year olds	Hourly rate of inclusion supplement for under 2year olds
Level 2	<p>Child is known to the Early Years Inclusion Process.</p> <p>Child has significant SEND needs as demonstrated by their EYFS profile and graduated approach evidence (illustrating provision required to meet needs).</p> <p>Child may or may not have an EHCP</p> <p>Child has ongoing support from at least 2 external professional.</p> <p>Child may attend an early years enhanced provision (or family declined a place)</p> <p>Funding request is supported by a member of ISS.</p> <p>Child will have a moderate level of need relating to their vision loss/Deafness, as determined by the Sensory impairment Team</p>	£8.70	£6.66	£4.12

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	Criteria	Hourly rate of Inclusion Supplement 3 and 4 years	Hourly rate of Inclusion Supplement 2-3 year olds	Hourly rate of inclusion supplement for under 2year olds
Level 3	<p>Child is known to the Early Years Inclusion Process</p> <p>Significant and complex life-long SEND needs as identified by the Sensory Impairment Service or Physical Disability Outreach team. Profound level of loss means they will require BSL or Braille to access learning and in the case of VI, require one to one support to ensure safety in the setting as well as access to learning.</p> <p>Individuals require a high level of adult support whilst attending the EY provider to ensure their inclusion.</p> <p>Support staff require additional training and qualifications which are not typically required when supporting a majority of SEND needs e.g. BSL or Braille qualification, medical procedures</p> <p>Specialist one to one support, for Sensory Impaired CYP is essential to enable access to EYs provider.</p> <p>Child may or may not have an EHCP in place, though in majority of cases this is in place or assessment has been requested</p>	£9.70	£7.66	£5.20

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	Criteria	Hourly rate of Inclusion Supplement 3 and 4 years	Hourly rate of Inclusion Supplement 2-3 year olds	Hourly rate of inclusion supplement for under 2 year olds
Level 4	<p>Child is known to the Early Years Inclusion Process</p> <p>Significant and complex life-long SEND needs as identified the by Sensory Impairment Service of Physical Disability Outreach Service. Likely to be on the MSI caseload.</p> <p>2:1 support required to meet health and education needs throughout attendance time with an EY provider.</p> <p>Child may or may not have an EHCP in place, though it is expected that an EHC Plan would need to be in place prior to starting statutory education</p> <p>Child is known to Continuing Healthcare</p> <p>Child is known to Disabled Children's Social Care Team</p> <p>Support staff require additional training and qualifications which are not typically required when supporting a majority of SEND needs e.g. medical procedures to provide life supporting care</p>	£17.40	£13.32	£12.90

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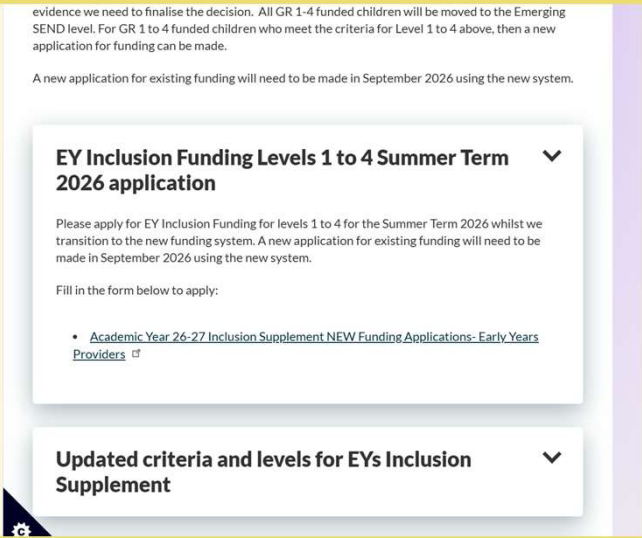
Suggestion of streamlined application

- EY Inclusion Notification form updated to include reference to funding
- Discussions had with IT – Sept 2026 is likely to be date when we can have a merged funding/monitoring form delegated via LL to providers
- Interim measure to request funding: MS form at: [The Graduated Response levels and funding rates | Worcestershire County Council](#)

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evidence we need to finalise the decision. All GR 1-4 funded children will be moved to the Emerging SEND level. For GR 1 to 4 funded children who meet the criteria for Level 1 to 4 above, then a new application for funding can be made.

A new application for existing funding will need to be made in September 2026 using the new system.

EY Inclusion Funding Levels 1 to 4 Summer Term 2026 application ▼

Please apply for EY Inclusion Funding for levels 1 to 4 for the Summer Term 2026 whilst we transition to the new funding system. A new application for existing funding will need to be made in September 2026 using the new system.

Fill in the form below to apply:


- [Academic Year 26-27 Inclusion Supplement NEW Funding Applications- Early Years Providers](#) ☑

Updated criteria and levels for EYs Inclusion Supplement ▼

Deadline to request this is now midnight on 17th May

And no requirement to re-apply in Sept

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Processes in place

- Back systems work underway – 31st March aim to have all updated funding levels on synergy
- Reviewing timelines for when funding needs to be requested – further details will be given when available
- Providers **do not need to reapply in September** for current funding rates and children. All funding will remain until either moderation suggests otherwise or needs change (in either direction)
- Any new applications from Sept will be managed via Liquid Logic; if you require a change in funding level then you will need to inform us via LL or in the interim via another MS Forms (**to be devised**)
- If child moves from E SEND to Level 1-4 – ESEND will be replaced with the new level

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Monitoring process



- Provider **do not need** to complete Summer Term monitoring form
– we need to change the process

Further discussion about how funding is often grouped for better effect and impact and therefore would a provider approach to moderation, rather than just looking at individual children work better?

Could this be setting visit or on line and a conversation? Idea: Random or targeted? sample of providers by the EYIT and paperwork structured to give overview of all children receiving funding to have a meaningful conversation about how the funding is being used across the provision. Would still need to complete the delegated form per child on Liquid Logic, as this would give information prior to the moderation conversation

Could colleagues from the sector take part in these visits to do the moderation jointly? Good idea to see other practice and learn from each other – would need to consider how to capture all types of providers; **Agreed those present could be contacted in future about how to make this work**

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Monitoring process



How can we make this more meaningful and involve the sector?

- Clinic calls – second opinion are really helpful, and then AS has an overview – add to that process, as this is where we would get lots of information too
- Targeted time and pre-booked within a time period – us to set the date
- be clear about what we want to see – and naturally occurring evidence – settings will be reviewing children at different points anyway
- Structure for conversation could be focused on: Adult resources, environmental resources, support for family
- Wiltshire have a useful proforma – colleague to ask if this can be shared

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Questions

- See FAQs document

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What support do you need for this change?

- Updated grid with examples of provision per level – added to website
- All updates and slides available at: [The Graduated Response levels and funding rates | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- Range of options of time/date for meeting

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Conversation 3

[Early Years Inclusion Funding Conversation Part 3 – Fill in form](#)

- Weds 22nd April 9am-10.30am
- Weds 22nd April 7pm-8.30pm
- Friday 24th April 1.30pm-3pm



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Thank you 😊

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