

Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Service

New Early Years Inclusion Funding Model



This funding is available as a **block contribution** in relation to the child's needs and will be paid for **all** Universal Free Entitlement (FE) and Extended FE hours that the child attends. Most funding decisions made within this model would be agreed for a year (three terms) and claimed termly via the Online Provider Portal. This will enable providers to employ staff on a longer fixed term contract giving greater stability to the workforce. There will be some exceptions where funding will be agreed for a shorter period.

Example 1 – where Enhanced Funding is agreed by the Funding Panel for a term to help settle a child into their Early Years placement; however, this would be reduced to Standard Funding or ceased as it would not be expected to be needed after this initial support.

Example 2 – where Enhanced Funding is agreed by the Funding Panel for a term to support a child to get used to wearing their hearing aids; however, this level of funding may not need to continue at this rate long term.

Both of these examples could be supported with a Disability Access Fund payment (DAF) – it is crucial that providers are having this conversation with parents at pre-entry meetings to establish whether the DAF payment is available to the setting.

Standard Funding - £3.00 per hour (no change from current Standard Funding rate).

Funding agreed at Standard rate is intended to enable providers to implement targeted support for a child using their current ratios; or to target interventions using an enhanced ratio at specific times during the session.

Enhanced Funding - £8.00 per hour (a change from current Enhanced Funding rate due to the commitment to a longer period of funding in most cases). Funding agreed at Enhanced rate is intended as a contribution to:

- enhanced staffing ratios to enable interventions to take place during the session the child attends;
- support the child to make progress with their learning and development alongside their peers;
- maintain the child's and other children's safety within the setting;
- follow medical advice to support the child's needs.

Children receiving the Enhanced Funding rate will have complex and severe learning and/or health needs. Each application will be considered on a case by case basis and will be dependent upon the child's needs, adult to child ratio within the setting, and other funded children attending the same sessions etc. If funding is required to continue after the first year of funding, this will be considered at the full review before the second year of funding.

Examples of funding

Funding	Hours covered by the rate	Calculation	Hourly rate
Standard Funding	Hourly rate for Standard Funding for children accessing up to 15 hours Universal FE and up to 15 hours Extended FE.	<p>Examples of outcomes:</p> <p>For a child who attends for 20 hours: $15\text{hrs} + 5\text{hrs} = \mathbf{20\ hrs} \times \text{£}3.00 = \text{£}60.00 \times 38\text{wks}$ $= \text{£}2,280$ per year.</p> <p>For a child who attends for 18 hours: $15\text{hrs} + 3\text{hrs} = \mathbf{18\ hrs} \times \text{£}3.00 = \text{£}54.00 \times 38\text{wks}$ $= \text{£}2,052$ per year.</p>	£3.00/hr
Enhanced Funding	Hourly rate for Enhanced Funding for children accessing up to 15 hours Universal FE and up to 15 hours Extended FE.	<p>Examples of outcomes:</p> <p>For a child who attends for 25 hours: $15\text{hrs} + 10\text{hrs} = \mathbf{25\ hrs} \times \text{£}8.00 = \text{£}200.00 \times 38\text{wks}$ $= \text{£}7,600$ per year.</p> <p>For a child who attends for 28 hours: $15\text{hrs} + 13\text{hrs} = \mathbf{28\ hrs} \times \text{£}8.00 = \text{£}224.00 \times 38\text{wks}$ $= \text{£}8,512$ per year.</p>	£8.00/hr

Inclusion Funding can be agreed for up to a maximum of 30 hours per week and a maximum of 1140 hours per year. This can be claimed over the standard 38 weeks (or fewer), or can be 'stretched'. If you are using the 'stretched' method, you will be able to claim reduced weekly hours over more than 38 weeks. For more information about 'stretched' funding, as well as how you can 'self-stretch', please refer to the document entitled 'Additional information for providers' available on the website www.westsussex.gov.uk/ecsfreetitlement.

We have listened to comments and suggestions brought to us previously by providers and have taken these into consideration whilst considering a new model – please see below.

Q. Why is the funding agreed for a term at a time? It is difficult to employ staff when the payment is uncertain.

A. In the new model of Inclusion Funding most funding would be agreed for the duration of the child's attendance at your setting, up to a whole year (three terms), which will enable providers to employ staff with more certainty and greater stability.

Q. Why doesn't the funding payment cover the total hours the child is in the setting?

A. Inclusion Funding is intended as a **contribution** towards meeting the needs of a child in their Early Years setting, and applies to the Free Entitlement hours only. With the introduction of the Extended FE, some parents will be eligible to access up to 30 hours of early years learning a week – the new Inclusion Funding model will cover the total amount of hours attended by the child up to the maximum of 15 hours Universal FE and up to 30 hours Extended FE (considered on a case by case basis).

Q. Completing the paperwork takes up too much time, especially if I need to make a TSS request, Inclusion Funding request and send a report to EYPARM – can this be reduced?

A. Within the new Inclusion Funding model review we are able to reduce paperwork needed by the Funding Panel. For example:

First review – will be required at the end of the first term after funding is agreed. For this providers will need to provide a record of the funding review meeting held with the parent and the Early Years and Childcare Advisor (EYCA). If the Funding Panel are satisfied with the evidence provided in the first review then there will be no paperwork needed by Funding Panel in the second term of funding. However, settings will need to keep their own records of the impact of funding on the child's progress and inclusion in the setting and the parents' view on how their child is being supported within the setting.

Full review - will be required at the end of the funding period. For this providers will need to provide:

- the child's progress overview
- Individual Plan
- STAR observations (where appropriate)
- West Sussex Speech and Language monitoring tool (where appropriate).

If a setting submits an Inclusion Funding application within two months of a TSS Inclusion request (or vice versa), they will not have to submit the same evidence twice.

Further information will be available in due course on the West Sussex website www.westsussex.gov.uk/ecsgoodpractice via the 'Including All Children' page.