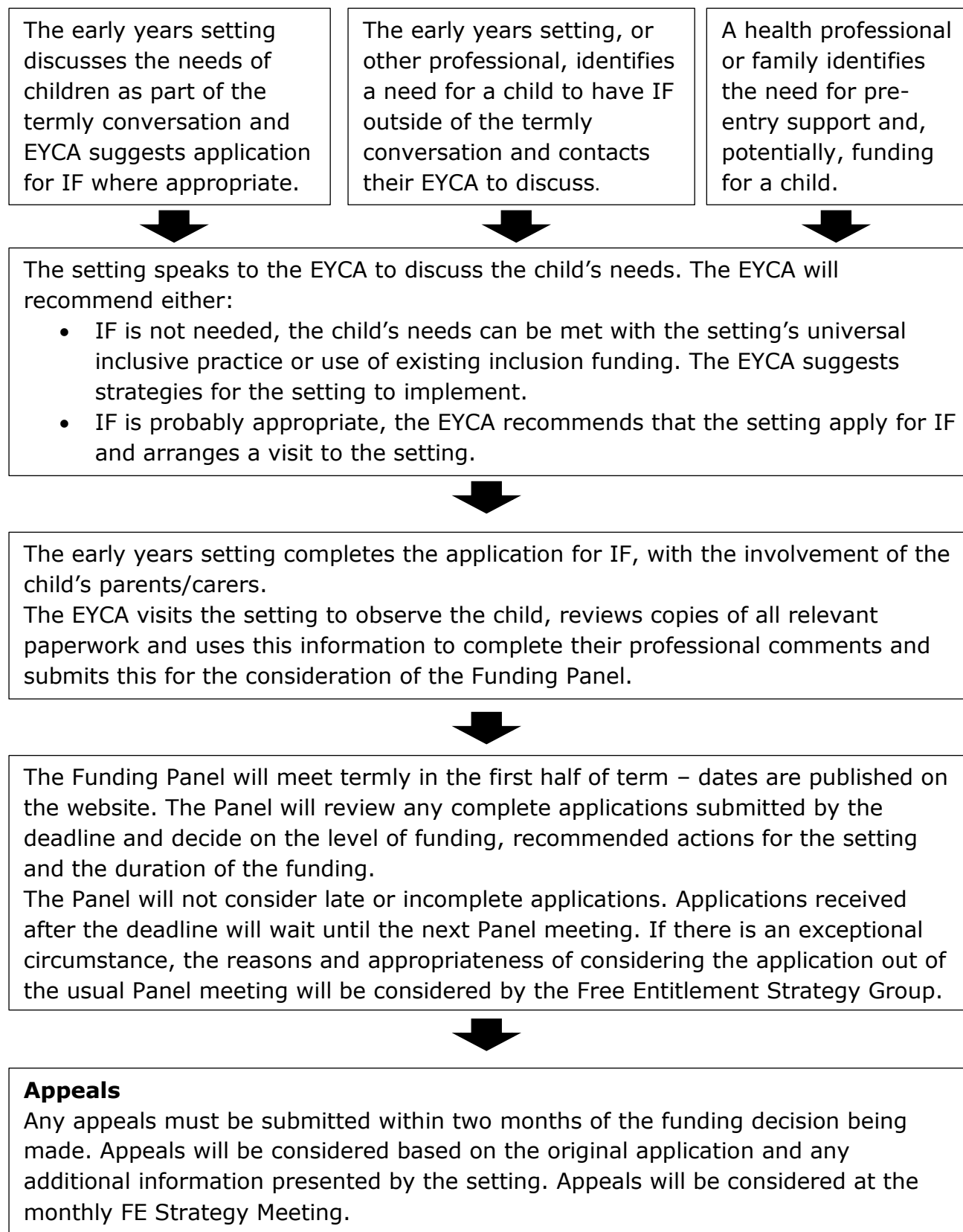


Inclusion Funding Application and Review Process

Inclusion Funding (IF) is available for children accessing their Free Entitlement (FE) with an early years setting – this can be for the universal 15 hours or the extended 30 hours entitlement and includes the 2, 3 and 4 year old entitlement.



Equipment Funding Requests

If specialist equipment is recommended by a Physiotherapist or Occupational Therapist to support a child to access the environment, the setting should complete an IF application form and include the information provided by the health professional and submit the application to inclusionteam@westsussex.gov.uk . Applications for funding for specialist equipment will be considered at the time they are received and will not have to wait until the next Funding Panel meeting.

Inclusion Funding Reviews

The use of, and ongoing need for funding will be reviewed by EYCA's as part of the termly conversations in settings.

In addition, for short-term funding, the setting will complete a self-review form to show how the funding has been used and the impact for the child at the end of the agreed funding period.

For ongoing funding, the setting will complete a self-review form each year to show how the funding has been used, the impact for the child, the child's ongoing needs and next steps. They will also complete a self-review form at the end of the funded period.

Changes to Funding Awarded

If, as a result of the conversation with the setting or another professional supporting the child, a need for a change to funding is identified, then the EYCA will need to collect evidence of the ongoing needs of the child and complete a new professional comment form.

The funding level might change as a result of the changing needs of the child or the setting's use of funding.

Inclusion Bursaries

These will no longer be awarded as accessing training to meet the needs of a child should be part of universal inclusive practice.

If a child in receipt of Inclusion Funding moves to a new setting

The funding will transfer with the child in the same way that FE payments are transferred. Once a child is accessing a new setting, this will trigger a funding review by the EYCA but the new setting will not need to apply for IF for the child.

Inclusion funding for children who do not live in West Sussex

Following changes made to the statutory guidance, IF should be applied for to the Local Authority in which the setting that the child attends is located. Therefore, all IF applications from West Sussex early years settings should be made to West Sussex.