

Early Years Inclusion Fund

Guidance for Parents and Early Years Providers

- **What is Inclusion Funding**

Gloucestershire County Council provides Inclusion Funding to Early Years settings to help them to safely include and support individual children with emerging Special Education Needs and Disabilities to achieve positive outcomes. The Inclusion funding is a contribution to the resources needed to support the child and is not expected to cover all costs in all cases.

- **Who is eligible?**

Children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old may be eligible if they receive free Early Years Education (Nursery Education Grant) and have identified needs highlighted in their My Assessment and My Plan or My Plan+. The setting the child attends must have evidenced what support they have received from other professionals, adjustments they have made, why additional resources are required and what outcomes the additional resource aims to achieve.

- **How are eligible children identified?**

The Early Years provider is ultimately responsible for identifying a child with additional needs/SEN and Disabilities and in accordance with the [Gloucestershire Graduated Pathway](#) for children with additional needs the Early Years setting should consider whether it is appropriate to complete a My Plan or My Assessment.

Where an identified child has clear needs and outcomes identified on their My Plan or My Plan+ but agreed interventions are not making the expected progress this should be referred to Gloucestershire County Council's Early Years Service for further support and consideration of additional resources.

- **How is the funding accessed?**

If the setting and/or the child is already being supported by a practitioner from the Early Years team they should discuss the child's needs with them. Otherwise the early years setting will need to contact the Early Years Service for advice. An Early Years Lead Advisor will ensure that relevant training has been offered or signposted to the setting and that all efforts to support the child at a universal level have been explored with the Team around the Child (TAC) including the parents. A review will be held to identify what is/isn't working and if it is agreed that additional inclusion funding is required a referral to the Multi-Agency Planning group (MAP) will be made. A Resource Allocation System form (RAS) will be completed which identifies the level of difficulty the child has in achieving outcomes and thus allocate an indicative resource to meet need and achieve outcomes. The Early Years

setting, with advice from the Early Years Lead Advisor will propose what additional support/resources are required to achieve the agreed outcomes.

The referral, including a proposed plan of support with supporting evidence will be reviewed at the Multi-Agency Planning group and resources may then be allocated. The impact of these resources will be reviewed, usually after each term, and a re-referral may be made if necessary.

- **What can the funding be used for?**

This funding is to ensure that settings are able to support the needs and learning of identified children. The Early Years Lead Advisor along with the Team around the Child will have a look at what/how the additional funding could be used but some examples include:

- A higher ratio of adult/child support
- Adjustments within the environment
- Specific input – eg PECs, learning braille etc
- Training
- Enhanced transition plan when children are ready to move from setting to school
- Specific short term interventions/therapies

- **How long is the funding for?**

The funding will be agreed for a time limited period. The reasoning behind this is to ensure that it is having a positive impact on the child and their developmental outcomes.

If the setting/or Team around the Child feel that funding beyond the agreed time is required a TAC meeting will need to be held to review the My Assessment and My Plan/My Plan+. There will need to be clear evidence of why further funding is needed. A member of the SEND Early Years Team will need to be part of this meeting.

If you need further information regarding inclusion funding or support for children within an Early Years setting please contact your Early Years Locality Team or complete a referral for the Early Years Service <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2082793/early-years-new-request-form-final-sept18.docx>

Further support and information can also be found on www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk