

**Additional Support Funding for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Attending Early Years and Childcare Settings
September 2019**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Additional support funding is offered to early years and childcare providers for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who need extra help to access mainstream childcare provision. Brighton & Hove Inclusion Support Service (BHISS) assesses the need for and administers and monitors additional support funding for pre-school children.
- 1.2 Local authorities are required to establish a special educational needs inclusion fund (SENIF).
- 1.3 Brighton & Hove City Council has consulted and agreed through its schools' forum and agreed a SENIF of £450,000 in 2019/20.
- 1.4 Early years and childcare providers who have children attending their setting who are assessed as in need of additional support may receive funding to pay for this from the SENIF.
- 1.5 The intention of the funding is to enable children in receipt of the Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE) with SEND to access the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

2. Eligibility for Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE)

- 2.1 Information on eligibility for different childcare offers can be found here

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/
- 2.2 Eligible two year olds receive EYFE from the term after their second (where eligible) or third birthday. This continues until the child starts school.
- 2.3 Eligible two year olds are children from low income families, as well as children who are disabled, looked after or adopted from care. EYFE is for 570 hours a year.
- 2.4 To be eligible for EYFE two year olds with SEND must be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, and/or have a statement of SEN, and/or an Education, Health and Care plan.
- 2.5 All three and four year old children are eligible for 570 hours a year of EYFE from the term after their third birthday. This is known as the "universal entitlement".
- 2.6 Three and four year old children of working parents are entitled to 1,140 hours a year of EYFE, double the entitlement of three and four year olds of non-working parents. This is known as the "extended entitlement".

- 2.7 Where parents stop working the child will enter a “grace period”. The extended entitlement will cease at the end of this grace period.
- 2.8 BHISS will assess the level of support which children with SEND in receipt of EYFE need in order to access the EYFS at their early years setting.
- 2.9 **There is no additional support funding for hours which children spend in early years and childcare settings in addition to EYFE hours.**
- 2.10 Any hours paid for by parents will not attract additional support funding.
- 3. Additional Support Funding Amount – Private, Voluntary and Independent Settings**
- 3.1 Where a child is assessed as in need to additional support this will be paid at the rate of £10.50 per hour.
- 3.2 The maximum number of hours for which a child can receive additional support is 570 per year, or 1,140 hours where the child is eligible for the extended entitlement.
- 3.3 **Only EYFE hours will attract additional support funding.** If a three or four year old child loses their eligibility for the extended entitlement (for example if the parent stops working) the additional support funding will also at the end of the grace period, even if the child remains in the setting for hours above EYFE hours paid for by parents.
- 3.4 Any hours paid for by parents will not attract additional support funding.
- 4. Additional Support Funding Amount – Maintained Settings**
- 4.1 Where a child is assessed as in need to additional support this will be paid at the rate of £10.50 per hour.
- 4.2 The maintained setting will be required to make a contribution of 25% of the assessed amount of additional support.
- 4.3 The maximum number of hours for which a child can receive additional support is 570 per year, or 1,140 hours where the child is a three or four year old of a working parent.
- 4.4 Any hours paid for by parents will not attract additional support funding.
- 4.5 **Only EYFE hours will attract additional support funding.** If a three or four year old child loses their eligibility for the extended entitlement (for example if the parent stops working) the additional support funding will also at the end of the grace period, even if the child remains in the setting for hours above EYFE hours paid for by parents.
- 5. Disability Access Fund**
- 5.1 Early years and childcare settings which have a three or four year old children in attendance who is in receipt of DLA will also be eligible for a one-off payment of £615 per year from the Disability Access Fund (DAF).

5.2 Separate guidance regarding the DAF has been issued.

6. Equality Act 2010

6.1 If there are additional costs associated with a child with SEND attending early years provision for hours in addition to their EYFE the early years provider will need to make “reasonable adjustments” under the Equality Act 2010.

6.2 Adjustments only have to be made where they are considered to be reasonable and this will depend on a range of factors including:

- the nature of the disability
- how practicable the changes are
- if the change would overcome the disadvantage
- the size of the organisation
- how much money and resources are available
- the cost of making the changes
- if any changes have already been made

7. Other Support for Parents of Children with SEND with Childcare Costs

7.1 Working parents can apply for [Tax Free Childcare](#) scheme which offers parents a 20 per cent top-up towards childcare costs, with parents of disabled children eligible for a maximum government contribution of £4,000 a year (compared with £2,000 for non-disabled children).

7.2 Some parents of children with SEND receive additional support through direct payments and/or Disability Living Allowance (DLA) which could be used to support additional childcare costs.

8. Children Living Outside the City Attending an Early Years Setting in Brighton & Hove and Brighton & Hove Children Attending a Setting Outside the City

8.1 Additional support funding is provided for any qualifying child attending an early years setting in the city. If a child attends a setting outside Brighton & Hove their needs will be covered according to the local authority in which the setting is located.

Vicky Jenkins
Childcare Strategy Manager – Free Entitlement
September 2019