

Durham County Council: Early years funding 2024/2025

Early Years National Funding Formula

About you

Q1 What type of provider are you?

- ☐ Nursery School
- ☐ Maintained School with Nursery Unit
- ☐ Academy School with Nursery Unit
- ☐ Private/Voluntary/Independent Nursery
- ☐ Childminder
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify below.

About the proposal

Local authorities are required to ensure a pass-through rate of 95%, meaning they are permitted to retain up to 5% of all funding streams.

Q2 How do you view the authority's proposal to retain 4.7% of all funding in line with the percentage retained from 3-4-year-old funding in 2023/24?

- ☐ It should be more
- ☐ It is about right
- ☐ It should be less

In 2024/25 local authorities are permitted to set aside a contingency fund to provide for any unexpected impact of the changes to funding this year. Of particular concern is the change to the calculation of funding to be based on a termly census as opposed to using annual census figures from January, which has often proved to be a high point in pupil numbers. The contingency fund would be regarded as funding for providers and would count towards the 95% pass through requirement.

Q3 How do you view the proposal to set aside a contingencies fund of 0.5% for all entitlement funding?

- ☐ It should be more
- ☐ It is about right
- ☐ It should be less

In 2024/25 local authorities are expected to establish SENIFs for 2-year-olds and under, in addition to the existing 3-4-year-old SENIF. These funds are intended to support local authorities to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEN who are taking up the entitlements.

Q4 How do you view the authority's proposal to set aside a SEN Inclusion Fund of 1.5% across all entitlements?

- ☐ It should be more
- ☐ It is about right
- ☐ It should be less

The authority is proposing to remove the quality (staff qualifications) supplement from the 3-4-year-old rate (to redirect an increase of 13p per hour to all providers through the base rate).

Q5 Do you agree or disagree with the proposal?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Generally, the disadvantaged cohort of 2-year-olds require further additional support than those children who are not in this cohort. The authority is proposing to transfer 8p of working parent 2-year-old funding to the disadvantaged 2-year-old rate in order to facilitate a 19p difference between the two provider rates.

Q6 Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Q6a Do you think the difference between the two rates should be...

- ☐ Higher
- ☐ Lower

Q7 Do you have any further comments to make about the Early Years National Funding Formula proposals?

Early Years SEN Funding

The following questions relate solely to Early Years SEN Funding and do not impact on the calculation of SENIF funding, but instead relate to how we deliver these services.

The proposal is to change current funding model and create separate Early Years SEN Inclusion and Early Years SEND Support (High Needs) processes.

Early Years SEN Inclusion Funding would support inclusive practice and enhanced ratios for children with low and emerging needs.

The proposal is to create two ways in which settings and schools can access Early Years SEN Inclusion Funding.

1. Supporting Inclusive Practice

Funding up to a maximum of £250 towards staff training relating to a child’s specific needs where that training can support their emerging SEND, developing inclusive practice and improving outcomes, such as Makaton, BSL, sensory profiles or other relevant evidence-based approaches .

2. Enhanced ratio and introduction of evidence-based approaches and/or medical/health needs

Funding to contribute to the cost of delivering specific evidence-led interventions to support children’s low and emerging needs, such as Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) Evidence store and speech and language programmes (such as Elklan).

Additional adult supervision is needed to monitor a child during snack and mealtimes to ensure the child is able to swallow food and drink safely and/or for the child not to consume food from other children which would contradict their identified dietary needs, such as diabetes.

Additional adult supervision is needed to enable child to access full early years curriculum, such as an increased risk of suffering a seizure when swimming.

Q8

The authority is proposing two types of inclusion funding, supporting inclusive practice and enhanced ratio. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

☐

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither agree nor disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

Q9

Do you agree or disagree with the proposal enabling providers to make group applications (more than one child within your setting)?

☐

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither agree nor disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Strongly disagree

Q10

Has your school or setting claimed Disability Access Funding in the last year?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know/unsure

Q11

Do you have any further comments to make about the Early Years SEN Funding proposals?