Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund – Consultation Results

The results of the consultation on proposals for Cambridgeshire’s SEN Inclusion Fund have now been collated and considered. The consultation was launched on 12th June and closed, following an extension of one week, on Sunday 16th July 2017. In addition to the formal consultation, in formulating these proposals, local authority officers met with a variety of practitioners and representatives from the early years sector through the Early Years Provider Reference Group, prior to publication.

Details of the proposals were sent to all interested parties including all early years settings in Cambridgeshire, parents, county councillors, colleagues in health and officers and partners working directly with families across the county.

Responses to the proposals were collected by an online survey which allowed participants to record their response and to provide comments in respect to each of the questions asked.

Comments and responses were received from providers and parents. The results to the consultation are shown in the attached appendix.

In summary, the majority of people who responded to the consultation support the proposals as they were set out in the appendices on the county’s webpages


and recognise that there is a collective responsibility for the local authority and early years providers to manage this funding to improve outcomes for children in Cambridgeshire.

We have committed to review the policy and process for awards of funding through this scheme annually for a minimum of two years. This includes the exclusion of applications for Tier 1 and 2 funding from Maintained Nursery Schools, while they continue to receive transitional funding which includes an element of funding for SEN.

As part of this ongoing review we will look to embed practice messages, through training and support to ensure consistency of outcomes for all children across the county. We will consider our process and policy in light of how this requirement operates and is applied in the Peterborough City Council area.
We will continue to explore our policy for funding two year olds with SEND. Further consultation about how a funding stream can be developed from the two year old funding received in Cambridgeshire is likely to take place in Spring 2018.
Early Years National Funding Formula - SEN Inclusion Fund Survey Results

1. Do you support the proposals outlined in appendices 1 - 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Response %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>62.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>37.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of comments received and response

*Tier 3 criteria seemed to exclude time for meetings.*

This funding is designed to support the child to access the early years curriculum and should be used to support the child’s needs or to fund training to assist the setting and its staff to better meet the needs of the individual child. However, it is recognised that attendance at some appropriate meetings will be necessary in supporting some children and would not always be excluded.

*Too much paperwork and duplication of paperwork for a child with high needs as a setting progresses through the tiers*

There should not be a requirement for duplication of paperwork as these applications will be considered by the same panel, up to and including an application for Education, Health and Care Plan.

*Funding levels for Tier 1 and Tier 2 are too small*

The policy, process and funding will be monitored and reviewed annually.

*Tier 2 funding is not helpful and this money would be better spent support 2 year olds with high needs*

Tier 2 funding is to support improving outcomes for vulnerable groups, which would include three and four year olds who were previously accessing a funded 2s place, using evidence based outcomes.
2. Do you support the proposal for the creation of Tier 1 to support “rising 3s”?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Response %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>87.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>12.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of comments received and response

*What about younger children and children with emergent needs*

The SEN Inclusion Fund has been created using funding from the High Needs Block and from a top-slice of funding for 3 and 4 year olds within the Early Years Block. It would not be appropriate to fund younger children using funding for 3 and 4 year olds.

We have committed to put forward proposals for the creation of a similar fund for two year olds in Spring 2018.

3. Do you support the proposal to monitor and review this policy annually for a period of 2 years?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Response %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of comments received and response

4. Which interested party area do you represent?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Response %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>12.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Years Provider</td>
<td>87.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authority Officer</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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Summary of comments received and response