Proposed Eligibility Criteria – Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund

Information for Early Years Providers in Nottinghamshire

April 2018 - March 2019

The new Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund is available to support the inclusion of funded 2, 3 and 4 year olds attending Nottinghamshire private, voluntary and independent childcare settings not including schools.

Whilst it is the expectation of the Local Authority that early years providers will work positively to offer inclusive services to meet the needs of all the children in your care, it is recognised that additional support may, on occasion, be required to meet the needs of an individual child, this could include additional staffing. If additional costs are incurred when providing childcare for children with SEND you may apply to Early Childhood Services for a contribution towards these costs.

Applications are considered and funding decisions are made by a multi-agency inclusion panel who meet on a 4-6 weekly basis.

The SEN Inclusion Fund assessment process is aligned to High Level Need criteria for schools and the panel apply these criteria in their allocation.

Early years providers caring for SEN children may be eligible for funding if:

- The provision is registered with Ofsted
- The child is 2 years old and eligible for 15 hours of funded early education a week
- The child is 3 or 4 years old and accessing their universal entitlement of 15 hours of funded childcare per week
- The child is 3 or 4 years old and accessing their additional 15 hours of funded childcare per week if their parents are in employment
- The child is resident in Nottinghamshire
- The provider has sought advice from specialist agencies relevant to the child being referred (examples include: Schools and Families Specialist Services (SFSS), Speech and Language Therapy, Integrated Children's Disability service, etc.).

NB: eligibility criteria for funded childcare for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is available at
http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/early-years-and-childcare/free-childcare