

## Early Years' funding

- In Doncaster, Early Years' settings can request Early Intervention Allowance (EIA) funding for a child with significant SEN. EIA for nursery aged children is requested via the Local Authority's Early Years' Panel and decisions are made on the basis of an evidence based provision map, individual Plan at the SEN Support stage of the graduated approach and the involvement of the Pre-School Inclusion Team (PSIT).
- Early Years' settings do not receive notional SEN funding (£6,000) and EIA funding is allocated as top-up funding from the LA's High Needs Block (HNB). There is a maximum allocation no more than the current 15 hours of nursery educational entitlement and is subject to any national changes to this level of entitlement.
- Where a child is in receipt of EIA, requests for a statutory Education Health Care (EHC) needs assessment had previously been submitted for some children in the spring term to secure top-up funding at phase transition i.e. from September of a child's Reception year into full time education.
- Many Early Years' settings have good relationships with schools and put in place effective transition arrangements. However, the allocated school is not known until the April National Offer day for a primary school place or later depending on when a parent submits an application. Consequently, unless a child is in a school's nursery department, the school may not have been involved in SEN Support planning or a request for a statutory EHC needs assessment. Schools must deliver what is specified in an EHC Plan but they may not have been involved in its development. In addition, transition planning and arrangements over the summer term are not consistent across the borough and this is recognised as an identified area for further development and sharing of good practice.
- From the academic year 2017/18, the LA has extended the provision of EIA into full time school for the Reception year without the need for a statutory EHC needs assessment or EHC Plan. This is only where children are expected to continue their education in a mainstream setting. Children for whom specialist education may be appropriate will continue to need a statutory EHC needs assessment and EHC Plan to access this type of provision.

- The continuation of EIA funding will provide a top up above the school's Element 2 funding to deliver the individual plan in place at SEN Support. Element 2 funding is prescribed nationally as a threshold of £6,000 and enables, for example, additional adult support for the equivalent of 13 hours of targeted 1:1 support.
- During the summer term, the allocated receiving school, with the support of the early years' provider if the child is not already in the school, will be asked to confirm through submission of an EIA continuation form that:
  - the funding is required to continue into the autumn term at SEN Support ;
  - that SEN Support Plans including the child's personalised learning outcomes are being reviewed jointly with families and all involved; and
  - there are robust transition plans in place.
- This will be an agreed action at the child's SEN support/transition meeting.

The EIA continuation form must be submitted to the LA's SEND Panel via the SEN Assessment Team by post or preferably by secure email to the address provided.

EIA continuation forms are located on the Local Offer.

Pathways during the Reception year include:

- a reduction of support required to meet needs within Elements 1 and 2; or
- submission of a request for up to £4,000 per year, through the local decision making process; or
- a request for a statutory EHC needs assessment and possible EHC Plan for higher banding mainstream resources (Bands B-C or £5,000-£8,000) or a transfer to more specialist provision. A robust evidence base will be in place and therefore the formal request will require little additional information

There would be no loss of funding whilst this request is being considered by the LA.