One minute guide
Funding for Inclusion

What is Funding for Inclusion?

Funding for Inclusion (FFI) is the system for sharing out the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) High Needs Top Up budget to education settings.

Funding is available as EYFFI for children in early years settings (guide), as FFI for those in primary and secondary schools and as Additional Learner Support (ALS) in post-16 settings.

A child or young person's needs can be categorised in one (or more) of the following bands:

A band – cognition and learning needs;
B band – vision needs;
C band – hearing needs;
D band – physical needs;
E band – communication and interaction needs;
F band – social, emotional and mental health needs; and
G band – health care needs

How is FFI decided and distributed?

FFI is provided to pupils who receive educational provision in mainstream primary and secondary schools and in specialist provision. Specialist provision in Leeds is either Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs), Spring Well Specialist Academy or Resourced Provision (specialist provision sited in mainstream schools).

Relevant education or medical professionals such as SEN and Inclusion Team (SENIT), Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists and Consultants identify children in early years for EYFFI. SEN Coordinators in schools identify school age pupils for FFI.

Post 16 settings and providers are funded on a 'place plus' system. Places are commissioned by the local authority for pupils with SEND who are 16 years of age and over, and continue in education. Funding is determined according to a maximum of 600 learning hours and is therefore based on three fifths of any FFI received during the pupil's pre-16 education.

Full details about the process for applying, accessing and allocating EYFFI, FFI and ALS are available from the link to the online FFI Handbook at the end of this guide.

The Special Educational Needs and Statutory Assessment Provision (SENSAP) Team (guide) will monitor use of the funding allocated to ensure it is being utilised in an efficient and effective manner.

Also, SENSAP Quality Assurance and Monitoring Officers may visit a school or setting to check on the provision for children and young people with SEND. This may be as part of a random sample or where a school/setting has been identified for more investigation.

Who can access FFI?

FFI is available for Leeds residents or looked after children from another local authority living in Leeds.

The funding is available for children and young people aged between two and twenty five years old.

EYFFI is linked to eligibility for a free nursery place under Free Early Education Entitlement (guide).

EYFFI and FFI is allocated on an individual basis, providing the pupil meets eligibility criteria.

The school, setting or relevant education or health professional must provide evidence which indicates that the pupil requires specialist support and provision.

EYFFI and FFI is not dependant on the child or young person having an EHC plan.

What happens after funding has been allocated?

When funding has been allocated the education setting must arrange regular reviews to discuss the pupil's progress towards outcomes, review targets and provision requirements.

The reviews process for children in early years is described in Section 4 of the FFI Handbook, for school age pupils in Section 8 and for pupils in post 16 provision in Section 10.

EYFFI can be reviewed and new applications can be made at any time up to the summer term prior to the child becoming Reception age chronologically.

FFI is reviewed according to the pupil's chronological age, in Reception, Years 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10.

Post-16 funding is determined during Year 11 prior to entry to post-16 education.

Key contacts and for more information

For more information you can read the online Funding for Inclusion Handbook documents which include the FFI Handbook and the Simple Guide to FFI.

If you require any further information please contact: the FFI Coordinators, tel: 0113 3785449 and email: ffi@leeds.gov.uk

One minute guides
homepage

Making
Leeds a child
friendly city