



One minute guide

Funding for Inclusion

No. 136, March 2022

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, 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 funding to meet need 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), Specialist Academies or Resourced Provision (specialist provision sited in mainstream schools).

Relevant education or medical professionals such as the [SEN and Inclusion Team \(SENIT\)](#), Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists and Consultants identify children in early years for EYFFI. SEN Coordinators (SENCOs) in schools identify school aged 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 to 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 [online FFI Handbook](#).

The [Special Educational Needs and Statutory Assessment Provision \(SENSAP\) Team](#) will monitor use of the funding allocated to ensure it is being used in an efficient and effective manner. 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 or 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. It is also available to children looked after by Leeds who are educated in schools in other local authorities (known as Out of Area settings). 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 **does not** require that a child or young person have an [EHC plan](#).

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.

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

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 3 of the FFI Handbook, for school age pupils in Section 7 and for pupils in post 16 provision in Section 5.

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.

In some cases, a [personal budget](#) is allocated to a child or young person so that they or their family can organise some of the provision themselves.

Key contacts and for more information

For more information you can read the online [Funding for Inclusion Handbook documents](#) which includes the full FFI Handbook and the simple guide to FFI.

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