

Inclusive Early Years Fund (IEYF) – Frequently Asked Questions.

Who sent the information about the amount of IEYF to be paid out to providers?

You would have received an email from KCC Finance pvieyfin01@kent.gov.uk.

Should we receive a remittance form for the payment?

For schools and academies as you would receive your funding via your schools advance, this will appear on your statement of account. All other providers should receive a remittance advice from our Accounts Payable Team

How do we receive the payment?

Schools and Academies received their payment via their September 26 Advances payments, PVI's & Childminders received their payment on the 28th September direct into their bank account.

How was the amount of money received by each setting calculated and determined?

Funding up £5,000 was paid to eligible providers based on the number of funded hours and deprivation payments in the Spring 2026 census data for 3-&4-year olds, with 75% linked to the base rate & 25% to deprivation. In accordance with DfE recommendations, providers will receive this payment if the amount calculated is more than £250. Providers were notified of their eligibility for this funding and amount at the end of August.

If you have any questions in relation to distribution of the Fund, please contact PVIEYFIN01@kent.gov.uk.

Would I use this for each room or a nursery overall?

This additional funding is designed to help settings embed inclusive practices across the whole setting. By using the Starting Strong Audit, you will be able to establish where in your setting you may wish to focus on.

Where do I find the documents spoken about this evening?

The Starting Strong Audit Tool, Starting Strong Resource Guide, Inclusion Fund Tool and Inclusive Early Years Fund Local Authority Monitoring Form can be found on [Kelsi – Inclusive Early Years Fund](#)

Should I have applied for this fund?

No, this was allocated to eligible providers.

Is this going to be an annual payment going forward and will it be the same amount?

The Government has shared that there will be provision going forward, however allocations will depend on eligibility criteria and therefore, the amounts will vary. The IEYF proposals were included in the recent government funding consultation.

As this was based on 3-4 years base rate is it to be used on this age range only?

The fund can be used on any age range as long as it is used to embed inclusive practices and support areas identified for further development in respect to inclusion.

The government guidance states that multi-site providers can pool the funding, but it doesn't give any examples on how to do this. Can funds received for one setting be used in another one (e.g., to release staff for training at another setting) as long as the total amount across the group is justified?

Funding can be pooled across settings that are in receipt of the IEYF.

Can it be used for additional staffing for SEND children?

The DfE says that settings are expected to provide inclusive provision as standard through their core funding. IEYF can be used for staffing costs that support or strengthen inclusive provision but not for paying your usual staffing bill. IEYF is additional to SENIF which may support additional staffing costs to meet individual children's needs.

The MS form do we complete this before we spend or during /after? I know we have been asked to spend by end of March 2027, but deadline of this form is 31 Jan?

It is expected that providers will have planned how to spend their funds by 31 January 2027. All allocations need to be spent by 31 March 2027

Can we use some of the money for maintenance of our garden for the children to use? We are in need for a refurb of our outside area.

Providers must be able to evidence that any spend of the Inclusive Early Years Fund is done so to specifically improve inclusive provision, not to make general improvements to the environment. Any funding that is not spent appropriately may be recouped.

Do the Education People have up to date training for creating inclusive environments and Inclusive Practice that we can implement for staff as a whole?

Yes – bespoke training can be explored by contacting ThreadsofSuccess@theeducationpeople.org.

We are looking to update our chill out/calming corner - presume we can use this funding for this taking into account inclusive provisions?

Yes

Could we use some of the money to enhance our book area with some dual language books. As we have many EAL children/families this would also help staff learn a few words/phrases in the children home language.

Yes

We have recently freed up a member of staff to support with SENCO duties. This staff member has complete SENCO training and helps to assess children at enrolment stage. Can we use this money towards their salary?

The DfE states that settings are expected to provide inclusive provision as standard through their core funding. IEYF can be used for staffing costs that support or strengthen inclusive provision but not for paying your usual staffing bill. IEYF is additional to SENIF which may support additional staffing costs to meet individual children's needs.

Could it be that more than one area comes up in your audit and you would spend on more than one area of need?

Yes

Can it be used for staffing for SEND children where SENIF doesn't cover it?

No, this fund does not serve as a top up for existing funding streams.

Is there a way that once settings start spending money that they can share their ideas so that settings who may be struggling to come up with ideas can be supported?

This is a great idea, and providers are encouraged to share ideas across collaborations. We will consider ways in which to share best practice with the Early Years Senco Forum possibly being a platform for this.

If the fund is to cover this financial year (26/27) can I use it to cover some previous spending, e.g on visuals, garden equipment and staff training carried out over the summer and at the beginning of this month?

Yes, as the funding is for the financial year 26/27. You should still provide receipts and be able to monitor and share the impact the use of the funding has had on improving inclusive provision.

Hi there I spent £2k on revamping my setting in the summer to allow for a calming inclusive environment as I wanted it ready for the Autumn term. Am I allowed to use the funding that I receive towards this cost.

See above

Are we able to use the funds towards a bigger project?

Yes as long as you are able to evidence impact.

If we would like some suggestions is there someone we could contact?

Group providers can email EYCQuality@theeducationpeople.org

Childminders can email childminding@theeducationpeople.org

Where can I find the Government guidance?

[Inclusive early years fund: best practice guidance for local authorities](#)

What is the email address the forms need to be sent back to? The one that needs to be sent by 31st January?

Once you have completed the Inclusive Early Years Fund Local Authority Monitoring Form, press the 'submit' button and it will automatically be sent to us.

Can the funding be used to train staff as a group?

Yes, for training needs that has been highlighted through using the Starting Strong Audit Tool or you have identified in your setting improvement plan.

How much do the tools cost?

The tools are free to all Kent providers and can be accessed on the Kelsi website - [Kelsi – Inclusive Early Years Fund](#).

Do we need to attach receipts also?

We would advise keeping proof of purchases.

I'm a new setting and numbers are currently low, it would be great to have access to some of the funds to promote inclusion from the onset, is there anything available for new settings starting out?

Not currently, however the Government aims to provide this funding again next year for all eligible settings.