

Special Educational Needs and Disability Inclusion Panel (SENDIP) Fact sheet for parents

The main purpose of **SENDIP** is to support the inclusion of young children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, or those who are particularly vulnerable, into and within Early Years settings and through their transition into school.

If your child needs extra help or support due to their complex Special Educational Needs and/or Disability, you can talk to a health professional or your Early Years setting about an application to **SENDIP**. For more information you may also contact the Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability Inclusion Team (SENDIT) on 01225 395608, or the SEND Partnership Service on 01225 394382.

SENDIP can award funding to support a child's inclusion in a mainstream setting by allocating inclusion support funding and transition support funding according to the age and needs of each child. The panel is made up of representatives from the Early Years **SEND** Inclusion Team, Children's Centres, Educational Psychology, Specialist provider (Bath Opportunity Pre-School) and Health professionals.

The panel looks at the detailed information and evidence provided in the application form, and the documents accompanying it, and makes decisions based on this. The panel then decides on the appropriate level of support, which is offered over a 38 week period. This can include 1:1 support, support moving into school or other support that can help your child.

A My Plan at SEN Support should be developed by the mainstream setting as part of the request to panel and will be an invaluable tool for recording, tracking and monitoring progress when supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The My Plan at SEN Support is personalised for your child designed to help them progress, make a difference and improve their outcomes.

Why choose to make an application to SENDIP?

Children and their needs evolve and change especially in their early years so it might not always be possible to determine how complex any Special Educational Needs might be, and therefore the level of Special Educational provision and support required. **SENDIP** supports children in their early years by arranging and implementing a package of support for a child. This package of support can include funding to enable a child to access their Early Years Entitlement (EYE) and creating a 'My Plan at SEN Support' to support best outcomes for a child, without the need for a statutory **EHCNA**.

The application process for **SENDIP** is straightforward and less time-consuming than if an **EHCNA** request was being made. The panel meets monthly and once support is agreed it can start quickly. Please note that in the case of two-year funding this commences the term after the child turns two.

Inclusion Support Funding (increased ratio support in the nursery)

Inclusion Support Funding is a process which allocates funding to an Early Years setting, primarily to enable children aged two years and over with SEND to achieve better outcomes. It allows an Early Years setting to increase their staffing ratios within the environment in order to increase the capacity of the child's Key Person or, in some cases and where appropriate, to purchase other services. The maximum amount of hours that will be funded is 30 hours per week (term time only) over a total period of 38 weeks. This is in line with a child's free early education entitlement (EYE) and the additional 15 hours available for working families from September 2017.

Transition Support Funding

Transition Support starts in term 6 while your child is still in an Early Years setting. This support continues through the reception year at their new school. It is to support children with complex and high level Special Education and/or transition needs that may meet the threshold for an **EHCP** in the future. **SENDIP** will also consider children who have high levels of emotional and behavioural needs which may include the allocation of Transition Support Funding additional nurture support.

'My Plan at SEN Support'

'My Plans at SEN Support' are support plans developed with your family and Early Years setting that give clear, helpful information about your child to everyone working with them. They include information about what is important to your child and the best ways to support them.

Education, Health and Care Plans

A small minority of children with very special needs may require an **EHCP**. In order to meet the thresholds your child must have complex and long term Special Educational Needs. Children with disabilities but no Special Educational Needs will not qualify but will still get support under different routes. Bath and North East Somerset SEND Partnership Service (01225 394382 or send_partnershipservice@bathnes.gov.uk) can provide you with more information about this.

About one in five children are thought to have Special Educational Needs at some point – most requiring some support at a non-statutory level (**SENDIP**).

Disability Access Funding (DAF)

From April 2017 the government has introduced a new funding measure for early years settings, the Disability Access Fund (**DAF**), to support children with disabilities or SEN. The **DAF** aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings, purchasing specialist equipment and/or seeking specialised training that would support providers to meet the child's needs. For more information regarding **DAF** please see the following link -

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/working-children-early-years/disability-access-fund-daf>

Where can I find out more?

You can ask any of the following people for more information about Early Years SEND support:

- *The Special Educational Needs Educational Co-ordinator (SENCO) or Inclusion Manager for your child's Early Years setting.*
- *Bath & North East Somerset Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability Inclusion Team.*
- *Bath & North East Somerset Statutory Special Educational Needs Service.*
- *Bath & North East Somerset SEND Partnership Service, providing SEND Information, Advice and Support in B&NES. They can also advise you about local support groups and their own Parents' Forum.*

Glossary

SENDIP – Special Educational Needs, Disability and Inclusion Panel

SENDIT – Special Educational Needs, Disability and Inclusion Team

EHCNA – Education, Health & Care Needs Assessment

EHCP - Education, Health & Care Plan

DLA – Disability Living Allowance

DAF – Disability Access Funding