**SENIF Briefing Sessions November 2023**

**FAQs**

Q: Should we send copies of professional reports in with the One plan or is a summary sufficient? Some children have 4 or 5 professionals involved and so there might be a lot to submit.

A: Yes, you can send in copies of any professional reports that support in providing evidence on the child’s needs.

Q: Can we use a medical health care plan within a One plan?

A: Yes, you can copy and paste the medical health care plan into the One plan so that it is all together in one document.

Q: Does inclusion funding require both an application form and a One plan?

A: Yes: -

Inclusion funding requires both an application form and One plan for Full and Renewed inclusion funding applications.

Applications for SEN Premium additional hours or an increase in hours do **not** require a One plan, just an application form.

SEN premium submissions to [preschoolpanel@essex.gov.uk](mailto:preschoolpanel@essex.gov.uk) now require both a One plan and a cover form, available from our website.

Q: Is the cover form for continued funding as well?

A: Yes, all submissions to [preschoolpanel@essex.gov.uk](mailto:preschoolpanel@essex.gov.uk) should be sent with a copy of the cover form.

Q: Where can we find the new template for One Planning?

A: If you have attended the SENIF briefings you will be able to download the One planning form through the booking system. We are currently in the process of uploading it to <https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/funding/funding-to-support-inclusion/> - latest updates and https://essexcc.pagetiger.com/cnaolyx/1/page8.htm

Q: I thought SEN premium was only started with a Section 23 from a doctor or health visitor. We cannot apply for SEN premium without that, or have I missed something?

A: SEN Premium cannot be applied for; it is only available for a child where ECC have received a Section 23 from a health professional and the assessment of the child’s needs meets the criteria to access SEN Premium funding.

At the moment SEN Premium can only be accessed if ECC has received a Section 23 notification from Health. However, under the current process if there is not a Section 23 in place Inclusion funding can be applied for instead.

From September 2024, under the new SENIF process you will be able to apply for funding if the child’s needs meet the new banding descriptors criteria and this will not be dependent on a Section 23 being received by ECC.

Q: If the Transition funding is not being introduced next year, our children won’t go into reception with funding as the EHCP needs assessment process is taking just too long

A: So long as the child meets the criteria, schools will still be able to access IPRA funding for any children without an EHCP in place.

Q: Will IPRA funding still be in place?

A: Yes, IPRA funding will still be in place for schools to apply for.

Q: Can schools apply for IPRA funding before September?

A: Yes, where schools have enough information on children starting in their school, prior to September, they will be able to apply for IPRA.

Q: If the Transition funding is being paused for another year, does this mean we will still need to apply for EHC needs assessment for children joining school in September 2024?

A: An EHC needs assessment should only be requested where enough evidence has been gathered to support the request to assess against the criteria. If this is not the case this should not be requested, and if necessary, schools will still be able to apply for IPRA if appropriate.

Q: Is there any other way to access IPRA funding other than an EHCP needs assessment not being undertaken?

All information about IPRA can be found on the schools Info Link.

<https://schools.essex.gov.uk/Pages/Search-Results.aspx?k=IPRA>

Q: Can you apply for IPRA if an EHCP needs assessment has been declined?

A: Yes, IPRA funding will still be in place that schools can apply for.

If an EHC needs assessment has been declined now, there is still time for another request for an assessment to be made before the child starts school. If this isn’t possible then the school would be able to apply for IPRA, so long as the child’s needs meet the criteria.

Q: When is the deadline for schools to apply for IPRA funding?

A: There is not a deadline for schools to apply for IPRA funding.

Q: If a child is receiving 30 the hours extended entitlement, can they receive SEN Premium for the full 30 hours even if they are accessing their 30 hours across different settings?

A: Yes, a child can access SEN Premium across more than one setting, up to the total number of funded hours the child is accessing across the multiple settings (so long as this does not exceed the maximum entitlement for the term).

Q: EHCP needs assessments usually takes 20 weeks, but we have been notified that it’s taking even longer due to no EP available. What impact is this going to have on being able to access funding for a child either in an early years setting or reception class?

A: Subject to meeting the criteria, both Inclusion Funding and SEN Premium will still be available for children in early years settings and, if necessary, schools will be able to apply for IPRA funding if the child’s needs meet the criteria.

Q: Has the deadline changed for submitting One plans for SEN premium?  I believe you used to be able to submit any time before the end of term?

A: You need to submit by the 1st of the month to be considered at the last panel of the term for applications for the spring term onwards. Details of panel date and submission deadlines can be found on our website.

Spring term submissions for SEN premium funding must be made on or before 1 March 2024 at the latest for consideration at March panel.

Summer term submissions for SEN premium funding must be made between 2 March 2024 and 1 July 2024 for panels in April, May, June and July.

Autumn term submissions for SENIF must be made between 2 July 2024 and 1 December 2024 for panels in August, September, October, November and December.

Submissions for SEN Premium and Inclusion Funding will not be considered if submitted on or after 2nd July. From the 2nd July onwards only applications for Autumn Term SENIF funding will be reviewed at panel.

Q: Would you be able to get a mix of both monetary and non-monetary support?

A: Usually, you would be allocated one of the other, but in some circumstances, you may be allocated both.

Q: Where can I find all the information that has previously been shared on the new SENIF process?

A: A section has been set up on the Essex Early Years Providers website for all of the information on the new SENIF, and this information will be added here in the next few weeks. The website page can be found at [SENIF - latest updates (essex.gov.uk)](https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/funding/funding-to-support-inclusion/senif-latest-updates/)

Q: I’ve just had some SEN Premium funding agreed up until December this year, when do I need to apply by to secure the funding for January 2024 term? Not much will change if I resubmit too soon.

A: Submissions for SEN Premium for the Spring 2024 term can be made from early December and will be considered at the January 2024 Panel.

Panel will expect to see a reviewed one plan on a termly basis, so ideally this submission would include an updated review.

Q: Can you please advise if we can get any funding under the new SENIF, from September 2024, as a setting who does not accept FEEE for a child who falls under section 23 and needs additional funding?

A: The SEND Code of Practice statutory responsibility states that SENIF is and will be based on the number of FEEE hours a child is attending. This point will be discussed internally and any updates to this will be communicated.

Q: Can we still access the inclusion partner as a setting who does not accept FEEE?

A: This will be reviewed alongside the answer to the question above.

Q: I was told I need to use the Essex One plan, and couldn’t use my own version

A: Many settings have adopted the Essex One plan. This is not mandatory but offers guidance if you choose to develop your own template to ensure you include all of the elements set out in the SEN Code of Practice.

Q: Will the new section 4 of the My Early Years One Plan replace the Section 4 in place now?

A: The plans are all word documents, so you have the ability to copy and paste from one document to another. Therefore, you can easily combine the pages you wish to use.

Q: Do you know what the rates for the new SENIF funding bands will be from September 2024 yet?

A: No, not at this point. We will be undertaking an analysis of the shadow SENIF banding rates that are being applied internally to enable us to set what the new SENIF funding rates will be from September 2024. We hope to be able share this at the start of the Summer 2024 term.

Q: I have a child in receipt of SENP, whose parents have been to view their local schools. Both schools have told the parents that unless an EHCP is in place their child will not get any one-to-one support at all. I know I do not have enough evidence to apply yet.

A: This is not the message parents should be receiving. Can you discuss the details with your Inclusion Partner so this can be looked into, and support offered to the schools in question as necessary.

Q: Can you clarify why a pupil for whom I have just got an EHCP Band 4 funding, will not receive this funding until they come out of our Nursery Provision and into a reception class?  The child still has the needs even though they are in the Nursery.

A: If an early year's child has been allocated EHCP funding this will be being paid to you via the SEN Premium, as the bands are the same. You would not receive SEN Premium and a separate source of funding as well.

Q: If a child is awarded a ECHP in pre-school but do not start school until the next academic year, could they start a SEN school sooner than before school age?

A: Just because a child is awarded an EHCP does not necessarily mean they will be allocated a place in a Special School. In fact, the majority of children with an EHCP in place will be attending mainstream school provision.

Some early years children with very complex SEN needs may be allocated a place at a Special School.

Q: If a child is claiming DAF, will this have any bearing in the SENIF application?

A: No, the DAF is a separate funding stream and does not have any impact on whether SENIF would be awarded.

Q: A parent has queried if their child could attend SEN school sooner, but the EHCP banding rate was low.

A: Only children with very complex needs would be allocated a Special School place, and it is unlikely that a child with a low EHCP banding would meet the criteria to attend a Special School.

Q: I have a child with Downs Syndrome and is in receipt of Inclusion funding, this has been awarded until March 2024. However, they turn 3 this term, so would normally be liable for SEN Premium from the Spring 2024 term, but there is not a Section 23 as

I have been informed that Great Ormond Street do not issue them. Should i send her reviewed one plan to PAP ready for Spring?

A: I would send in your reviewed One Plan with any professional's reports or NHS diagnosis and submit with the application form to the Inclusion Funding email, who will consider the information and may then pass this over to SEN Premium.