**Update from Dan Barton, Deputy Director (Learning) at Leeds City Council regarding the next stage in the improvement of our SEND services.**

**April 2025 update**

Hello,

We would like to update you about a few recent changes and progression as part of the change programme.

**FFI (Funding for Inclusion) Transition**

Funding for Inclusion (FFI) provided extra support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) without requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). As part of the SEND and Inclusion Transformation Programme, we are now reviewing this support to determine if these children might benefit from a full Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) and potentially an EHCP, ensuring they continue to receive the best support as they grow.

Initially planned for four years when introduced in June 2024, the transition from FFI to the Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment process has been extended to seven years to ensure financial sustainability and effective demand management for schools, settings, and internal council teams. You can view the new timetable [here](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.leedslocaloffer.org.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2025-04%2FFFI%2520Transition%2520Table%2520LLO1.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CHannah.Whitehead%40leeds.gov.uk%7C2893311f39884a422bac08dd7c05184c%7C16864fae286e4707a78bd7188d6149a7%7C0%7C0%7C638803083520057199%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TO1MMBLYWPlsOS%2FA6nBxrQ87zeqtlF3S%2FbRsm5M4gCY%3D&reserved=0). This extension allows us to focus on helping children during key educational transitions, such as moving from nursery to primary school, primary to secondary school, and secondary to post-16 education, making the process smoother and more manageable.

For further information on this, please read the ‘Transition from Funding for Inclusion’ tab below.

**New early years funding model**

Starting April 2025, the funding model for early years providers supporting children with SEND has undergone significant changes. These changes are designed to improve support and ensure alignment with national standards. Although applications for Early Years Funding for Inclusion (EYFFI) has ended, if your child is currently receiving EYFFI, they will continue to receive this funding until they transition towards the Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) process over the next two years. The SEND Inclusion Fund (SENDIF) remains available for children with emerging or low-level needs, while the newly introduced SENDIF+ will support those with higher-level needs as part of the [Education, Health, and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) process](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.leeds.gov.uk%2Fschools-and-education%2Fsupport-for-pupils-with-send%2Fsupport-with-learning%2Feducation-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans&data=05%7C02%7CHannah.Whitehead%40leeds.gov.uk%7C2893311f39884a422bac08dd7c05184c%7C16864fae286e4707a78bd7188d6149a7%7C0%7C0%7C638803083520083281%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Drg76xq8PZx3MZ8nzKvf5tzo1TH2aD0zkpDPxKnBXsc%3D&reserved=0).

For more details, please read the ‘New Early Years Funding Model’ tab below.

**Improving the Education, Health and Care needs assessment (EHCNA) process**

As you may know, in August 2024 we brought in temporary educational psychologists through our partnership with Liquid Personnel to help process more assessments each month and temporary plan writers to assist with the demand for Education, Health, and Care (EHC) assessments which has risen sharply in recent years.

We are pleased to confirm that in March 2025, this contract was extended to June 2025, with a target of completing 300 more assessments.

For more details, please read the ‘Improving the Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA)’ tab below.

If you have any questions about these changes, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us at ehcpreview@leeds.gov.uk.