

Local First Inclusion

Element 3 funding arrangements autumn term 2024

The information below, following the changes communicated last term (which can be found via [High needs Element 3 funding - Norfolk Schools and Learning Providers - Norfolk County Council](#)) confirms the next stages in the allocation of funds. Information on the background to these changes, prior communications and FAQs can also be found at the above link.

Funding Arrangements

Element 3 funding will be allocated to schools during the autumn term as follows:

1. Year R Bridging Fund

Year R Bridging Fund is a time-limited allocation targeted to support the transition of children identified with particularly high needs entering into the mainstream school system. The fund is given to allow children time to settle into their new schools and for settings to get to know them and understand their needs.

In June 2024 we were able to use point-in-time information to construct a list of children with high needs who had identified mainstream education settings destinations. Over the summer, we have updated the list using the latest information available as well as details sent to us by schools prior to them breaking up.

What will happen next?

NCC finance officers will contact education settings to ensure children expected to be on roll have arrived, during the first two weeks of September. Once we have confirmation that the child or children are in attendance as expected, the process to allocate the minimum rate of £4,500 per child, will commence.

2. Year 7 Bridging Fund

Year 7 Bridging Fund is a time-limited allocation targeted to support children who have been in receipt of high needs funding at bands 4b and 4c in their primary or junior education settings. The fund allows settings to plan provision for the children transitioning into year 7, rather than having to request funding as was the process in previous years.

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In June 2024 we were able to use summer term funding information to construct a list of children and confirm their destination secondary schools. Over the summer, we have updated the list using the latest information available.

What will happen next?

NCC finance officers will contact education settings to ensure children expected to be on roll have arrived, during the first two weeks of September. Once we have confirmation that the child or children are in attendance as expected, the process to allocate bands 4b and 4c at the proportionately adjusted rate, will commence.

What do schools need to do?

Make sure all new pupils are on roll within your setting. Once you have been contacted, please return any requested information as soon as possible so the process is not delayed.

3. Enhanced SEND Provision (ESP) small groups

Settings were contacted in July to confirm the amounts of funding they will be receiving for autumn 24 and spring 25 as well as the children who are expected to be in attendance in each ESP.

SEND advisers will contact schools by 20 September to check children are attending and will set up termly review meetings.

What do schools need to do?

Ensure your SEND adviser is kept updated with any changes that may take place regarding the ESP in your setting and that funding allocated is used for its intended purpose.

4. Years 1-6 and 8-11

Information used in June 2024 to calculate provisional banding allocations to children and young people in receipt of Element 3 funding has been updated and proportionately adjusted. Allocations will be made to settings in two payments, one during autumn 24 and one during spring 25. You will see notification of this in your SEN memo within your budget share tracker.

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Unexpected Situations Support Fund (USSF)

What is it?

The USSF is a process that will accommodate circumstances and forward planning for unexpected change. Although we will be ensuring budgetary controls are in place, there is a discretionary process aimed at unexpected situations requiring funding. This may be a new child to area or a child experiencing an unanticipated significant SEND need requiring increased funding.

This could include:

- A young person previously unknown and relocating into Norfolk Local Authority, presenting with complex needs.
- A child develops unforeseen and significant complex needs that trigger the introduction of an EHCP, or significant change in the needs identified within their EHCP. This may be subject to further enquiry if needed and will involve panel approval.

What will schools need to do?

If there is an unexpected change to the medical needs of the young person then a school should contact the SEND team via the [updated INDES webform](#) which will be live imminently.

In all other cases a SEND adviser will undertake an internal review of the case to determine the level of support and resourcing appropriate. The SEND advisers will use information already held about the pupil and setting but may contact the school for further information to help with the internal review.

From looking at both child and setting information, SEND advisers will make recommendations to a multi-disciplinary panel to determine the allocation of resource on a case-by-case basis. The funding is allocated on a time-limited basis and support implemented could be either financial or access to another LA intervention, such as EPSS or Specialist Outreach.

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Have your say on the future of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

The consultation on the Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) will become open for feedback from stakeholders from October 1 until October 24 2024. We would encourage all stakeholders to read this and engage in the feedback process. It is a valuable opportunity to feed back on the wider SEN system and inform arrangements to shape the next phase of the Local First Inclusion (LFI) programme.

Further information can be found on the Element 3 funding webpage along with the FAQs [High needs Element 3 funding - Norfolk Schools and Learning Providers - Norfolk County Council](#)

If you have any queries around E3 funding including Bridging or Unexpected Situations Fund, please contact the mailbox: element3funding@norfolk.gov.uk. Broad SEND enquiries should still go to the [Inclusion and SEND](#) mailbox separately.