

Specialist Educational Needs, Disability and Inclusion Panel

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 or Disability, you can talk to a health professional or Early Years setting about an application to **SENDIP**. For more information you may also contact Nick Fortt, Early Years Inclusion and Partnership Co-ordinator (01225 395412), or the SEND Partnership Service (01225 394382).

SENDIP can award funding to support setting placements, inclusion support and transition support 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, Disabled Children's Team, 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. Support can include 1:1 support, support moving into school or other support that can help your child.

After the panel has taken place, and if funding has been agreed, your child's setting will work with you to develop a 'My Plan'. This is a support plan 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** is a non-statutory route which 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 and creating a 'My Plan' 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.

SENDIP is the only route for agreeing two-year funding for children with **SEND** unless a family receives **DLA** for that child, or the child has a statutory **EHCP**.

2 Year Placement

If your child gets **DLA** or has an **EHCP** they are automatically eligible for 15 hours per week (term time only) placement funding the term after their second birthday. In Bath and North East Somerset your child may get this support if they have significant levels of **SEND** even if they don't qualify for **DLA** or have an **EHCP**. This requires an application to **SENDIP**.

Inclusion Support (1:1 support)

This support is term time only and can help your child to access their Early Years Entitlement at a setting (up to 15 hours per week). This may include 1:1 support for your child.

Transition Support

Transition Support starts in term 6 while your child is still in an Early Years setting. This support continues until term 4 in the reception year at their new school. It is to support children with complex and high level Special Education and/or transition needs that are likely to meet the threshold for an **EHCP** in the future. The transition panel will also consider children who have high levels of emotional and behavioural needs that would not meet the thresholds for an **EHCP**, to help them move successfully from an Early Years setting to school.

'My Plans'

'My Plans' 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. One section within the 'My Plan' is called 'What difference will this plan make to me' which has agreed outcomes for your child and information about how to get there. 'My Plans' are usually reviewed every six months so grow with your child.

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. The 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**).

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 Specialist SEND and Inclusion Team.*
- *Bath & North East Somerset SEND Partnership Service, providing SEND Information, Advice and Support in B&NES.*
- *Bath & North East Somerset Statutory Special Educational Needs Service.*
- *The SEND Partnership Service can 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

EHENA – Education, Health & Care Needs Assessment

EHCP - Education, Health & Care Plan

DLA – Disability Living Allowance