**Directorate of Education, Skills and**

**Early Years**

|  |
| --- |
| Consultation on distribution of the SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) during 2023/24: 22/05/2023 |

1. **Introduction**

Local Authorities are required to have a SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) to support 3- and 4-year-olds with lower level or emerging SEN who are taking up the free entitlements. Children with more complex needs and those in receipt of an education, health, and care plan (EHCP) continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the DSG.

We are consulting on priorities for the distribution of the SENIF during 2023-24.

Consultation will take place by means of a **survey to be launched on 25 May and open until Friday 16 June.**

The survey is available through the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/Lup5aUGGer>

It should be noted the final decision rests with the Local Authority

1. **Background**

It is a requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) that providers should meet the needs of all children through differentiation to the provision and practice and make ‘reasonable adjustments’ where necessary.

All educational providers are also required to meet the SEND Code of Practice 2015 and Equality Act 2010.

As part of on-going national SEND development work, there have been a number of incentives created to support SEND within the education system. Oldham Council have worked collaboratively with partners and wider organisations to develop the [Inclusion Framework](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/file/7523/oldham_inclusion_framework_-_early_years) and [The Graduated Response Toolkit](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/grt). These are local developments aimed at supporting effective early identification, intervention and inclusion across the Oldham Education system.

1. **SENIF Allocation**

The amount of funding allocated to the SENIF in 2023-24 is £194,000.

1. **The consultation seeks the views on the following;**

Q1: Do you think the SENIF should be for:

1. 2, 3 and 4 year olds
2. 3 and 4 year olds only.

Q2: Which of the following should be the main focus of the SENIF in 2023-24?

1. Speech, language and communication (SLCN)
2. To meet any presenting lower-level needs in line with the Inclusion Framework

Q3: Which of the following options should the SENIF funding formula be based on?

1. Occupancy recorded in Early Years Census.
2. Through payment of a standard grant to all providers registered to provide free early education entitlements with a premium based on cohort size (E.g. SEND Support; Deprivation).

Q4: (if you answered ‘b’ to Q3). Which premium would you prefer?

* SEND Support
* Deprivation

Q5: Any further comments you wish the LA to consider?

1. **Conclusion**

The consultation will open on 25 May 2023 and will run until **midnight on 16 June 2023.**

The online survey can be accessed via the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Lup5aUGGer>

Officer contacts in the event of any query or problems in relation to the consultation are as follows:

* Lauren.Blythe@oldham.gov.uk
* Ailsa.burton@oldham.gov.uk