

CAMDEN LOCAL INCLUSION FUND

Proposal for a new approach for the allocation
of CLIF funding



FREE EARLY EDUCATION ENTITLEMENTS PRE-APRIL 2024







- ▶ The government currently funds three Early Education Entitlements that are delivered by a range of early education providers including Primary schools, Private, Voluntary and Independent nurseries and Council maintained nurseries.
 - 15 hours Early Education and Childcare for 38 weeks of the year for all 3- and 4-year-olds
 - An additional 15 hours Early Education for the 3- and 4-year-olds of working parents
 - 15 hours of Early Education for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
- ▶ Camden also funds, through its General Fund, an additional 15 hours for disadvantaged 3- and 4-year-olds.



NEW ENTITLEMENTS – ANNOUNCED IN THE BUDGET IN MARCH 2023

Summary

The Budget announced a range of measures to support education and help parents with childcare so they can return to work more easily

-  **Entitlements:** Eligible working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of free childcare per week, for 38 weeks a year, from when their child is 9 months old to when they start school. Govt will also increase the hourly rate for providers.
-  **Wraparound:** The government will invest £289m over two academic years, from Sept 2024, to enable schools and local areas to set up wraparound childcare provision
-  **Market reforms**, including more choice for childminders and changes to EYFS requirements, to improve flexibility for providers and support the workforce.
-  **Changing staff:child ratios** from 1:4 to 1:5 for two-year-olds in England to align with Scotland and provide greater flexibility for providers
-  **Childminder grants** to attract people to childminding, with £1200 for those who register with a childminder agency and £600 for those who register with Ofsted
-  **Universal Credit reforms** will pay childcare support up-front when parents move into work or increase their hours and increase the monthly re-imburement caps

These will be rolled out in stages, to ensure enough supply in the system

Autumn 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Childminder grants become available• Invest £204m into 3/4yo and 2yo funding rate• Staff:child 2yo ratio change
April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15hrs for eligible working parents of 2-year-olds introduced• Invest £288m into 3/4 yo and 2yo funding rates
Sept 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National wraparound support begins• 15hrs for eligible working parents of children 9 months plus introduced
Sept 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30hrs for eligible working parents of children from 9 months to primary school age introduced
Sept 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All schools able to offer 8am-6pm wraparound on their own or in partnership

CAMDEN LOCAL INCLUSION FUND (CLIF)

“With the introduction of the new working parent entitlements for 2024 to 2025, local authorities should establish SENIFs (Special Educational Needs Inclusion Funds) for all children with SEN eligible for or taking up the entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken. These funds are intended to support local authorities to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEN who are taking up the entitlements”.

Local authorities should target SENIFs at children with lower level or emerging SEN.

Children with more complex needs and with an education, health and care plan (EHC) plan continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the DSG.

Camden Local Inclusion Fund - Spring 2024			Spring 2023	
Provider Type	No. of funded children	Amount Funded	No. of Children	Amount Funded
Maintained LA Day Nursery	50	£118,059.20	42	£104,766.50
PVI	73	£107,758.79	74	£87,073.92
School Nursery	81	£199,383.00	61	£145,208.38
Grand Total	204	£425,200.99	177	£337,048.80

THE LOCAL FUNDING FORMULA

Funding for providers is allocated to local nurseries using a local funding formula, as required in the statutory guidance, which allows for a local weighting to reflect variations in deprivation and, the provision of inclusion funding for children with emerging Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.

The Local funding calculations for 2024 / 25 are shown in the table below. The deduction for SEND inclusion fund becoming our local budget for Camden's Local Inclusion Fund (CLIF)

Local funding formula			
	3- & 4-year-olds	2-year-olds	Under 2's
Available for providers	£8.59	£11.48	£15.67
SEND Inclusion fund	-£0.50	-£1.03	-£1.74
TPPG	-£0.14	nil	nil
Deprivation	-£0.72	-£0.95	-£1.27
Hourly rate	£7.22	£9.50	£12.66

CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPLYING FOR CLIF

Process

- ▶ Providers complete an application form for each child in their setting for whom the arrangements in place for meeting the needs of children with SEND are insufficient.
- ▶ Providers identify the interventions that they would like to provide for the child and the additional resource, usually additional staff hours, for which they require funding.
- ▶ The applications are considered by a panel and funding may be awarded for a term.
- ▶ Providers are asked to submit a request to extend the funding if the child's needs still require additional resources.

Challenges

- The current system focuses on providing one-to-one support for a child. This may not be the best way of meeting the child needs
- The requirement to re-apply every term is unnecessarily burdensome
- CLIF and Exceptional Needs Grant are not currently well aligned. There are further opportunities to align CLIF and ENG processes.

PROPOSALS FOR A NEW APPROACH TO THE ALLOCATION OF CAMDEN LOCAL INCLUSION FUND

A new system is proposed based on a 'banded' approach:

- ❖ Band A will fund children with emerging needs
- ❖ Band B will fund children with developing needs
- ❖ Band C will fund children with complex needs

	Proposed amount for 'top up grant per term'	Total annual grant amount
15 Hours	Termly	Annually
Band A	£750.00	£2,250.00
Band B	£1,500.00	£4,500.00
Band C	£2,200.00	£6,600.00
30 Hours		
Band A	£1,500.00	£4,500.00
Band B	£3,000.00	£9,000.00
Band C	£4,500.00	£13,500.00

The band funding, in the form of a 'top up grant', will be allocated to the childcare provider to fund additional staffing so that planned interventions can be implemented. In most cases grant will be awarded to support children to take up their funded entitlement.

THE PROPOSED APPLICATION PROCESS

- Providers will be invited to apply for support from Camden's Local Inclusion Fund using an application form for each child for whom additional funding support is requested.
- The CLIF Panel will meet 9 times per year i.e. three times per term.
- The CLIF Panel will decide on the banding level based on the threshold criteria outlined below.
- Funding, if agreed, will be paid from the date of the CLIF Panel meeting until the end of the academic year. Each terms payment will be made following the clarification that the child appears on the headcount for the applying nursery.



GRADE DESCRIPTORS

Funding band	Threshold criteria
A	<p>A child with emerging needs</p> <p>Standard Inclusive Practice PLUS small group work and/or occasional additional adult support is required no more than 25% of the child's nursery hours. The child requires some adult intervention to meet their needs and access the EYFS curriculum. Individualised targets that require some adult support</p>
B	<p>A child with developing needs</p> <p>Standard Inclusive Practice PLUS small group work and/or additional adult support is required for 50% of the child's nursery hours. Involvement from external agencies. Individualised targets that require additional adult support. Child presents with delay in two or three of the prime areas of learning that requires a balance of small group and additional adult support</p>
C	<p>A child with significant and complex needs</p> <p>Standard Inclusive Practice PLUS additional intensive support or vigilance is required for 75% of the child's nursery hours. Individualised targets that require intensive additional adult support. Involvement from external agencies – child likely to have a diagnosis. Child presents with delay in all of the prime areas of learning and requires intensive support.</p>

CONSULTATION

The provision of Early Education and Childcare in Camden is a partnership between the Council and providers. Our ambition is to design and maintain a system that, while meeting the statutory requirements, provides as much support as possible for providers who work with us. We are therefore seeking your views about these proposals so that we can ensure that the system is as good as it can be within the resources we have available.

We really want your involvement in this process and would be grateful if you could respond to our consultation questions either on-line or by submitting a response to our Free Entitlement team on the form CLIFapplication@camden.gov.uk

Questions:

1. What do you think are the benefits / challenges of the proposed new approach?
2. Will you and your team be able to provide sufficient evidence within the application form for the panel to decide on bandings for children?
3. Are there any aspects of these proposals that you think could be better? If so, what?
4. Do you have any other comments?

TIMELINE

Action	Date
Launch formal consultation	7th May 2024
Close consultation	24 th May 2024
Summary of responses and outcome of consultation	17 th June 2024
Proposed implementation	1 st September 2024