



## **Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council**

# **Proposed Changes to the Early Years Single Funding Formula for the Free Early Entitlements for April 2025 – March 2026**

Outcomes of the Consultation

6 November 2024

The Early Years Single Funding Formula consultation paper and online link for response was emailed to 279 childcare providers registered for early education funding within Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) on 16 October 2024.

Two virtual briefing events were held during the consultation period, one in the daytime and the second in the evening.

The consultation close date was 11pm, 5 November 2024.

### **Total issued 279**

Type of Setting	Total Issued	Response (Number)	Response (%)
<b>All Respondents</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>12.2%</b>
<b>Childminders</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
<b>Day Nursery</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14.9%</b>
<b>Pre-School</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23.2%</b>
<b>School Nursery</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
<b>Independent Nursery</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20%</b>

Overall, 12% of the sector returned feedback on the consultation. The sector feedback for only groups and school based settings in isolation is 18%.

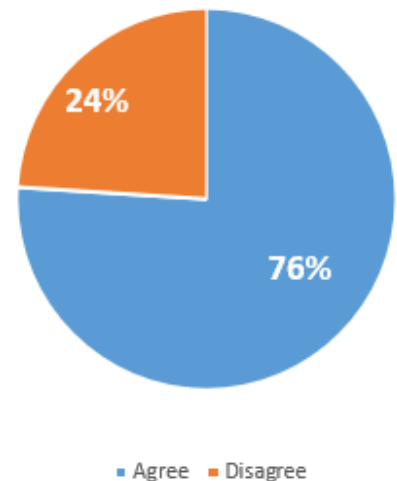
The outcome from each question asked within the consultation is summarised below.

This document also includes any comment left by a provider (anonymised where necessary).

### Question 1:

To prevent overspending within the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF), do you agree that a portion of any funding increase received from the DfE should be allocated to safeguard the current tier funding rates and ensure that the number of children who meet the eligibility criteria can continue to receive support?

Type of Setting	Agree	Disagree
All Respondents (34)	26 (76%)	8 (24%)
Childminders (8)	7 (88%)	1 (12%)
Day Nursery (11)	8 (73%)	3 (27%)
Pre-School (13)	9 (70%)	4 (30%)
School Nursery Class (1)	1 (100%)	
Independent Nursery (1)	1 (100%)	



For those that did not agree we asked 'what would you do differently':

Day nursery:

- 'Allocate to basic funding rate',
- 'Apply the funding increase (or majority of) to the base rate for all children / parents / providers to benefit from, remove Tier 1 and add that funding to Tier 2 and 3, to ensure all children meeting criteria can continue to receive support with no overspend'.
- 'Add to base rate'

Preschool:

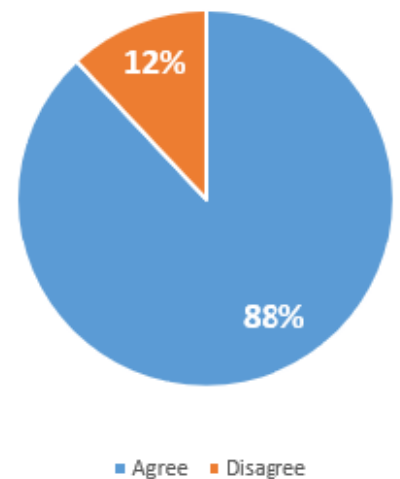
- 'As much as we all want to support the children with SEND, we have many children with behaviour and other needs, that taking off the base rate to support the few that qualify for SEND is not fair to the others, especially as you have made it even harder for us to even assess the tier funding'.
- 'We cannot afford not to receive the full funding available, especially for 3/4 year olds where the funding is way below the actual cost. SEND funding should come from a separate source'.

## Question 2:

Do you agree that any remaining additional funding increase received from the DfE is then applied only to the base rate per age category?

Do you agree with this proposal?

Type of Setting	Agree	Disagree
<b>All Respondents (34)</b>	<b>30 (88%)</b>	<b>4 (12%)</b>
<b>Childminders (8)</b>	<b>8 (100%)</b>	
<b>Day Nursery (11)</b>	<b>10 (91%)</b>	<b>1 (9%)</b>
<b>Pre-School (13)</b>	<b>10 (77%)</b>	<b>3 (23%)</b>
<b>School Nursery (1)</b>	<b>1 (100%)</b>	
<b>Independent Nursery (1)</b>	<b>1 (100%)</b>	



For those that did not agree we asked 'what would you do differently':

Day nursery:

- 'As above'

Preschool:

- 'It should all be allocated to the base rate not top sliced'

### Question 3:

**Please use this section to provide any additional comments you wish to make.**

Additional comments shared by providers are presented in the next section.

The following section contains all comments made by providers, per question, anonymised where necessary. Comment boxes are alternately shaded only for presentation.

Childminder	The base rate of 3 & 4 year olds needs to be made higher to at least £6
Day Nursery	<p>Based on the children in attendance at 'x' we do not and have not had any children receiving Tier 1. so it seems wasteful and unnecessarily to have the third Tier. This could be used more effectively by increasing the rates of the other two Tiers and adding to the SEND fund. We appreciate however this may not be the case for all settings.</p> <p>Thank you for your ongoing help and support, it is very much appreciated :)</p>
Day Nursery	<p>I believe the increase in SEND and especially high level needs SEND means that we need to invest more money into being able to offer better support to these children. We need to ensure all these children have the appropriate settings and to do this the settings need more funding to better support the child. More children are starting with no diagnosis or without even having seen a health care provider. This creates more stress on the people involved.</p> <p>We also need to look at levelling out the 3&amp;4 year old rate and raising this to meet the other funding rates as it is significantly lower. Also why do 2 year olds of working families still receiving the same dep pay as children from disadvantaged families.</p>
Day Nursery	The sector must have a 6.7% increase in the base rate to cover the increase of living wage as a bare minimum notwithstanding the hike in National Insurance payments. The Early Years Sector has not been considered and is at risk.
Pre-school	3/4 year old funding should be priority for any increase
Pre-school	The 3/4 base rate is still really low and I would like to see this increasing.
Pre-school	We appreciate that sharing the DFE funding between the tier system and base rates is challenging. Without additional funding to both more settings will close as they will be unable to pay staff, especially with the increase in April to the National Minimum wage.
Pre-school	The allocation for the current year has worked well and the above proposals make sense as we move forward.