



# Early Support Funding (ESF)

## What is it?

Early Support Funding (ESF) is non statutory funding process Hillingdon uses to allocate High Needs Block Funding for individuals who have significant barriers to learning and so require special educational provision which costs more than the nationally prescribed threshold.

*'The ESF fund is very helpful, it enables extra support for children'*

## What are the benefits?

- This is person centred funding, not a banded model, allocated by the support required as itemised on the provision map.
- SAS Panel meet weekly, so if the request is accepted then funding is usually allocated within two weeks of submission.
- All successful ESF applications are allocated a SAS linked advisor for further support.

*'It has been so helpful to speak to the SAS Inclusion team about applications that have both passed and failed. I often seek out the advisors to talk about next steps, evaluate progress and ensure things are going well for our children.'*

## Who is it for?

It is for children and young people who require support over and above what is expected to be provided for all pupils, including those with SEND, and so more than what is considered ordinarily available. For children and young people whose needs are severe and long term, this funding is not appropriate.

The child or young person must:

- Have significant barriers to learning which could be readily addressed through intermediate funding to provide intensive SEND support that is above the SEND notional budget
- Have a My Support Plan in place which contains **two** cycles of the Assess, Plan, Do, Review (APDR) process
- Live in the London Borough of Hillingdon
- Be accessing a mainstream Early Years, School or Post 16 setting within the London Borough of Hillingdon
- Be on roll and actively attending the educational setting which is making the application
- Have a clearly and correctly costed provision map

## How to apply

[ESF Application Form](#)

In addition, please submit the relevant documentation including the My Support Plan and professional reports to:

[saskeywork@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:saskeywork@hillington.gov.uk)

## Further Information

[Non-Statutory Funding Guidance](#)

[Information for professionals - Hillingdon Council](#)