

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
8	<p>Also, that the Director of Children’s Services and the Chief Executive of Education Leeds carry out a review of the funding for children with Special Educational Needs within Early Years, within the next three months, with a particular focus on ensuring that children are offered the same level of high quality support, regardless of the type of setting which they attend.</p>	<p>4 (not achieved)</p>	
	<p><u>July 2011 update</u></p> <p>Although we are still awaiting progress on an integrated disabled children’s service the recommendations around reviewing funding for SEN in early years are still relevant. To make progress in this interim period we have made some changes around how assessment information is gathered and how finance is allocated to make the process less bureaucratic. It is still an intention to implement in full the recommendations by April 2012.</p> <p><i>Director’s Response (Approved by Executive Board August 2009)</i> <i>The Director of Children’s Services agrees with this recommendation.</i> <i>A review is being undertaken around funding for young children with disabilities across all sectors to ensure inclusion and access- this will report to the Sure Start partnership in September 2009. There is a planned programme for all Children’s Centres to undertake Early Support training by April next year- this is a national programme to facilitate parental engagement as central to all planning for their disabled child.</i></p> <p><i>December 2009 update</i> <i>Earlier this year the Private Child-care Providers network and the Early Years Reference Group which oversees the implementation of flexible free entitlement for nursery education and the implementation of an equitable funding system for free entitlement in school and Private Voluntary and Independent Sector (PVI) nurseries, requested that a small group should look into the cost of inclusion in PVI providers. The aim of this piece of work was to develop a formula for the cost of inclusion in PVI settings and to make recommendations around the affordability for such provision in the current economic climate. The ultimate aim was to reduce barriers to inclusion in the PVI sector and ensure that this provision was sustainable.</i></p> <p><i>The work was undertaken by a small group of volunteers from the PVI sector and supported by early years business support. The findings of this group have been compiled into a draft report ‘the cost of inclusion in PVI settings’. This report will be ready for consultation in the new year and the results of the consultation will be incorporated into the report.</i></p>	<p>Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring</p> <p>Suggest monitor again in 12 months</p>	

The outline recommendations are as follows

- a) Consultation on the following recommendations should take place*
 - i) A single equitable funding system should be implemented across PVI and Maintained sector settings*
 - ii) The amount of funding for each type of setting should be the same per unit*
 - iii) The funding delivery system should be equitable*
 - iv) Further investigations should be undertaken to ascertain if we are able to pay this funding to the PVI sector through the free entitlement system which would reduce the resources needed to administer the system and if this would be acceptable to PVI settings*
- b) After consultation and recommendations from this are incorporated into the report, implementation should be undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity*
- c) Further investigation needs to be undertaken on funding methods for those above the age of 5*

March 2010 update

Extensive work is now being undertaken on a single funding formula for inclusion. Extensive consultation with all providers will commence in April 2010 with the intention of implementation of April 2011 of a new funding formula equitable across all sectors including schools.

September 2010 Update

Work is being undertaken as part of the Children's services Transformation Programme around the formation of an Integrated service for Children with Disabilities. It has been agreed to postpone the implementation of a Single Funding Formula for Inclusion until further progress has been made on this. In this financial year all children regardless of the setting they attend have been funded in the same way (EYFFI) although not at the same level. All plans are in place to implement a single funding formula when the time is right.

Reduction of children at risk of language delay: Data from the Every Child a Talker programme in Leeds shows an average reduction of 21% (137) of children at risk of language delay since the programme began in September 2009. Approximately 653 children (aged 2-4, accessing early years provision in childminding, school, children centre or pre-school settings) have benefited from the targeted programme led by an Early Language Consultant in partnership between the Early Years Service and Speech and Language Therapy service. 85% (555) of children in the programme are now working at or above the expected level of development, building a firm foundation for language development when starting Reception class.

December 2010 Update

The funding solutions for disabled children remain under discussion. No further progress can be made on this until the plans for an integrated disabled children's service are further developed. Progress will be reviewed through the transformation programme in children's services.