

FAQ's Inclusion Panel

Key Stage GRIP?

GRIP is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant; High Needs Block and this funding should not be allocated for periods of over one year. Considering the work that is going to be driven via the SEND Strategic Board and the pressures on the system we will honour the key stage payments. The Strategic Lead for Schools & Learning will organise a meeting for those schools receiving key stage funding to highlight an annual update requirement for audit and budget purposes considering the current DSG and HNB deficit.

If the annual report coproduced and agreed is not presented and / or the intervention and support is not improving outcomes funding will be re-assessed and other avenues such as an EHCNA will be discussed.

When will the GRIP backlog GRIP agreements begin and end?

The backlog GRIPs will run from the date of the application for a year. For example, if it was submitted in May 2022, it will end in May 2023. You can only reapply for Inclusion Panel funding once any current funding has elapsed.

What are the responsibilities of the SEND team?

As discussed, we will hold a session in the near future to update you about issues relating to SEND and EHCPs. Essentially, the SEND team will be the point of contact for anything linked to EHCPs – annual reviews, EHCNAs etc.

When will the pilot start and finish?

The first Inclusion Panel is planned for Wednesday 15th February. Applications are to be sent in by Wednesday 8th February. The online form will be available at least a week before the submission date. We hope to implement the new system in April/May.

Will you provide an example of what a completed form should look like?

Yes, we can send out an example of what is expected. We also hope to put on a session for SENCOs to talk through the expectations etc.

Are the old systems in place until the pilot begins?

GRIP ended on 1st December 2022. The last TAPS panel is on Wednesday 25th January – applications to be submitted by Friday 20th January.

How can we feedback on the pilot?

There will be feedback sessions throughout the pilot for SENDCos to attend. Feedback can also be sent to Helen Wallace at any time throughout.

How do I contact Inclusion Support Services?

The best way to do this currently is through Helen Wallace directly - (helen.wallace@derbyshire.gov.uk)

What will be the timescale for hearing back from panel?

We intend to get through cases on a weekly basis and will feedback promptly after the panel has decided.

Can I apply to Inclusion Panel for a child who does not live in Derbyshire but attends a Derbyshire school?

Yes, this is fine as the funding is for Derbyshire schools. This is different for EHCP children but not for Inclusion Panel.

How do I know if a child should have Inclusion Panel funding/support or an EHCP?

This is dependent on the level/significance of need and the likelihood of the support required being long term. We are keen to ensure that children and young people are receiving the right support.

It is not always clear what provision and support is available – can this be made clear?

We will soon be publishing clear documents to articulate the different services across Schools and Learning within the LA to provide clarity about the support available and how to access this support.

Is EYSEN funding separate?

Yes, the Early Years Inclusion Fund will continue to run separately to the Inclusion Panel.

What do I do if TAPS or GRIP ends in February/March?

You will be able to reapply for funding through the new Inclusion Panel.

Is agreed TAPS to be honoured?

Yes, absolutely. Agreements will run until the end date, as planned.

Is the new process only reducing workload for LA officers, not SENDCos?

No, the hope is that the new process reduces unnecessary tasks for both LA officers and SENDCos. The new process and form are far more efficient and requires far more concise information, less attachments etc.

Do I send in all of my applications in one go?

You will only be able to apply for any funding once the agreed funding, whether as part of the backlog or not, has run out. For the backlog cases, these will run for one year from the date of the application. This should mean that any new applications will be made throughout the year, as before. There is no need to reapply until a year from the initial application.

Will there be a medical category?

Yes, the scope/criteria for new process will cover all and any inclusion issues. We will work on developing this as the pilot progresses to ensure there are not any gaps in this.

Why will some agreements be for shorter periods of time (e.g. 12 weeks)?

This is because the scope for the Inclusion Panel is wider than GRIP and will cover some inclusion issues that may be shorter term than a year.

Will the changes impact support from SSEN for children with GRIP?

No, SSEN will continue to support. The new referral route into SSEN can be completed for any child who you feel may need their support. This is no longer only limited to those children with GRIP or EHCP. Alex Butler will update in the next Inclusion Lead Network and a communication about this will be sent separately.

Can 'Out of County' schools apply to Inclusion Panel for Derbyshire children?

No, Inclusion Panel is only open to Derbyshire schools.

Will there be more EPS available to support with the EHCNAs?

Yes, we have increased the capacity of the EP service to support the current demand/backlog.

When will we get decisions about the GRIP backlog?

The majority of cases have now been processed and are with finance and so funds should be transferred very soon, if not already. If you have not received this by the end of January, please contact Helen Wallace with details. Any GRIP applications received after 1st December won't be processed and will need to be reapplied for through the Inclusion Panel.

Will you keep the rule that Y6 funding cannot be applied for after Feb?

We are not aware of this rule and would encourage additional support where it is needed for transitions. There is not a month for any year group where applications for Inclusion Panel can't be made.

Is the reason behind the changes to reduce funding to schools?

Not at all – in fact, the scope for applications has increased from what was already available.

Is the Inclusion Panel funding from a different pot of money to EHCP?

Yes

Will the online form save so I can complete over time?

Yes, it will save as long as you enter an email address on the form as part of your contact details. You will then get a link to continue if you press the 'save' button. The part-completed forms are retained for 30 days and then are automatically deleted so you will have up to 30 days to complete.