Birmingham City Council

Review of Early Years Inclusion Support (ISEY)
Sector Consultation: Facilitated discussion

Session Two: 24th September 2025

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RESET RESHAPE RESTART

Inclusion Support in Early Years
Next Steps : Review

- Identify any barriers to application
- Current funding rates including the likely impact of extended offer - 30 hours
- Application process and questions included in the form
- Should there be different forms considering the:
  - Appropriateness of questions for different types of providers and
  - Appropriateness of questions for children from 9 months to 4 years.
- Current system for scoring applications
- Frequency of application periods / closing dates
- Efficiency/timeliness of invoice to payment process

Barriers to Application

- Applications opened for children in nursery classes in schools from December Moderating Group – for funding from January 2026

- Sessions to be scheduled in the second half of this term to support around this.

Current referral patterns:

  - To date – very few applications from childminders
  - Not all PVIs applying
  - All MNSs regularly apply

- Is early identification accurate?
- Is the application process appropriate?

Application Process

- For Discussion
  - Content of application form
  - One application form for all / age specific / differences for different types of providers
  - Required attachments SEN Support Plan
  - Submission – Microsoft form?
  - Frequency of applications, timing of closing dates
  - ‘Out of timeframe’ applications
  - Exceptional Applications

- Proposal for a working group to develop new form

Scoring System

- The scoring system provides the consistency around allocation of funding and the rate of funding agreed
- Current scoring system takes account of :
  - School Year
  - Number of hours of entitlement and any additional hours attended
  - Current level of development
  - Family Support Needs
  - Involvement of health agencies
  - Implementation of SEN Support Plan
  - Access to the EYFS: Activities and Routines, PSE development, health and medical needs
  - Current provision
  - Proposed use of funding – legal ratio / ratio required
- Are these the right scoring criteria?
- Working group for reviewing application needs to ensure alignment with scoring

Funding Rates

- Current rates:
  - Standard Rate £1,000 per term
  - Higher Rate: £1,500 per term

- Examples from other LAs – specified spend up to a maximum requiring a costed provision map , list of resources , courses etc.,

- Are these appropriate:
  - Thresholds for standard and higher rate
  - 30 hours offer.
  - Children with 15 hours eligibility who attend more
  - Different ages/ different provider types

NB. Increased funding rates will necessitate an increased budget- to be reviewed as part of the EEE rates review.

Inclusion Support in Early Years
Funding periods

- Funding allocations are made for a term – is this appropriate ?

- If payment made in full to the end of academic year:
  - how would we accommodate changes in setting?
  - children moving to EHCP funding?

- Termly allocations continue to the end of an academic year provided that
  - criteria continue to be met
  - an evaluation is completed

NB. If a child leaves one setting and starts at another eligible setting within the academic year, the funding transfers to the new provider.

Inclusion Support in Early Years
Use of Funding

- Funding must be used towards meeting the child's needs including improving outcomes as identified in the child's individual plan through:
  - enhancing ratios:
  - providing bespoke resources
  - appropriate staff training

- How does this fit with OAG?

- Should anything else be permitted – questions around covering staff for meetings, SEN paperwork

- NB it can't be used to give additional unpaid hours of attendance

Inclusion Support in Early Years Payments and accountability

Current system – non purchase order invoices

- Why are some invoices submitted so long after allocation of funding?
- Are payments timely following submission?
- Is there a more efficient system (similar to EEE funding) ?
- Accountability/ how can we best monitor spend? If we could remove the need for invoices , the importance of detail of spend on application forms would increase
- Are we sure the money is spent as described ?

Inclusion Support in Early Years
Transition and term before Reception

- How do we ensure timely transfer of information to receiving settings /schools
- Transfer of ISEY to new provider when a child moves
- Should applications be made by all current settings in June to ensure new providers are funded from start of Autumn Term
- Current SSPP system (under review – DBV workstream 2)
- Blue- sky thinking around transition funding for children in receipt of ISEY

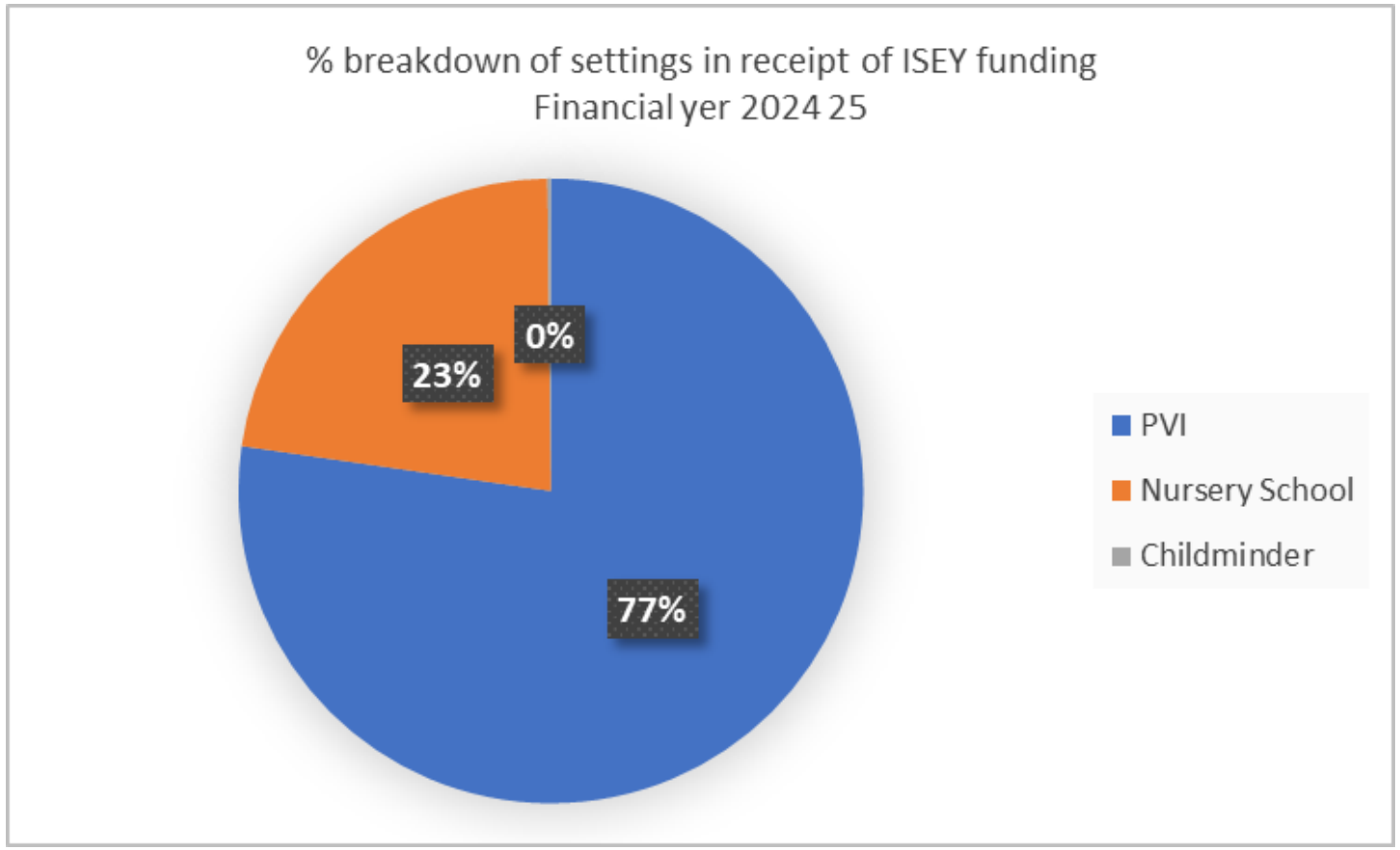
Inclusion Support in Early Years Other Considerations

- Should there be an upper limit (% of the total number of children attending) to the number of applications being funded per setting?
- Sector reps on the Moderating Group
- Current system of monitoring visits
- Have we missed anything?

Inclusion Support in Early Years
Allocated and not allocated

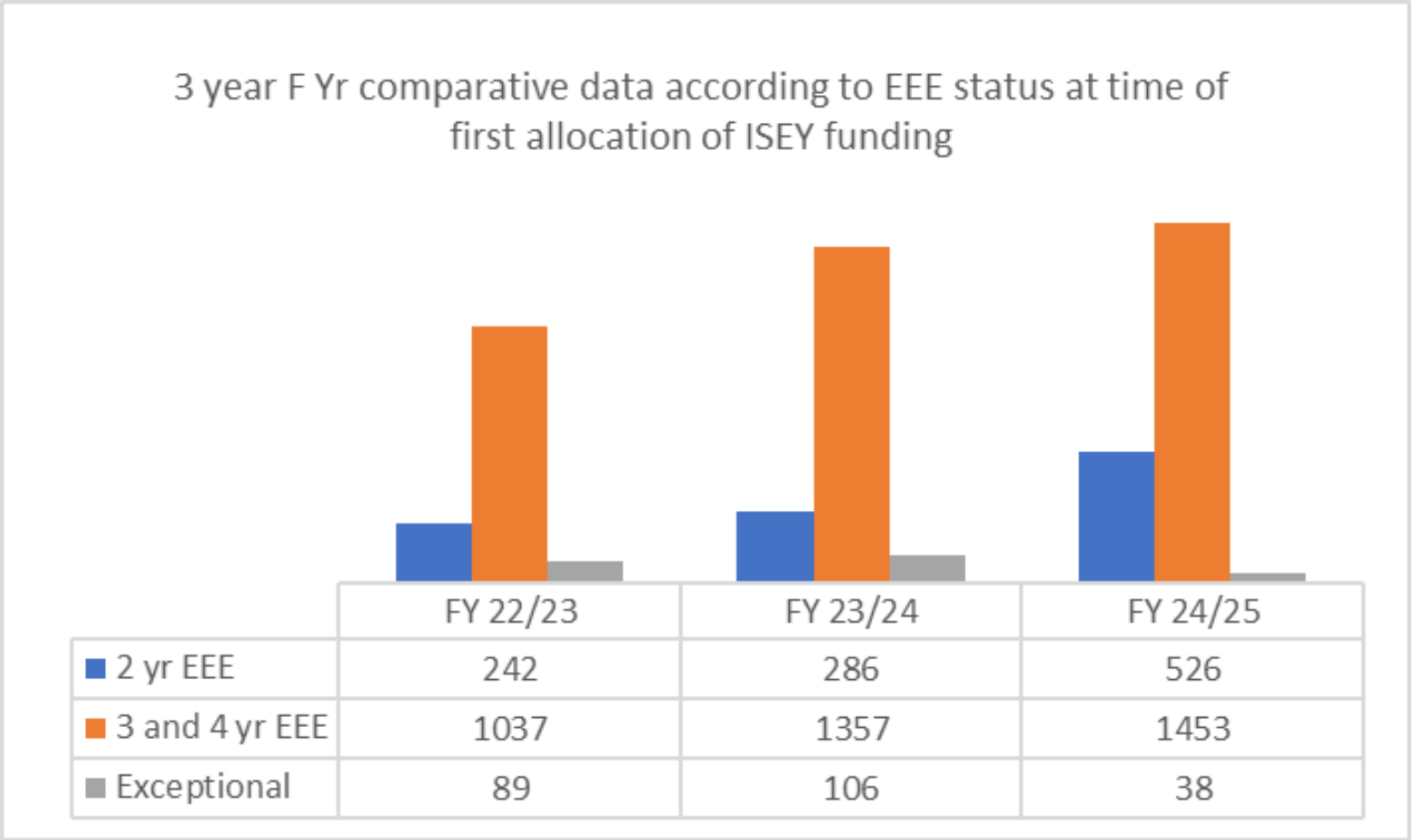
Applied during financial year 2024 25	**2167**
Allocated funding	2017
Not allocated funding at some time during the year	150

Inclusion Support in Early Years
Type of setting



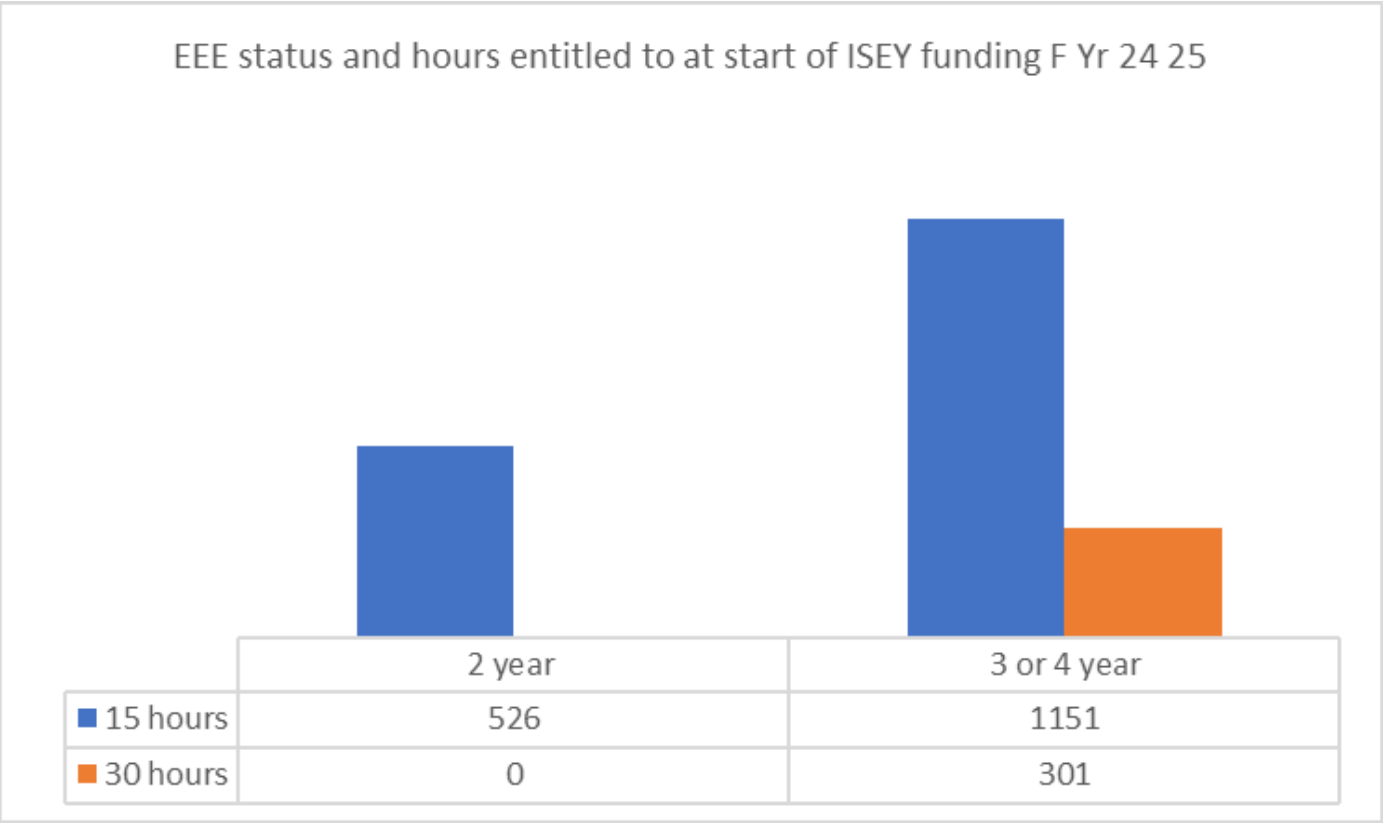
Applications received from:
100% of Maintained Nursery Schools
89% of PVI Group settings

Inclusion Support in Early Years
EEE status



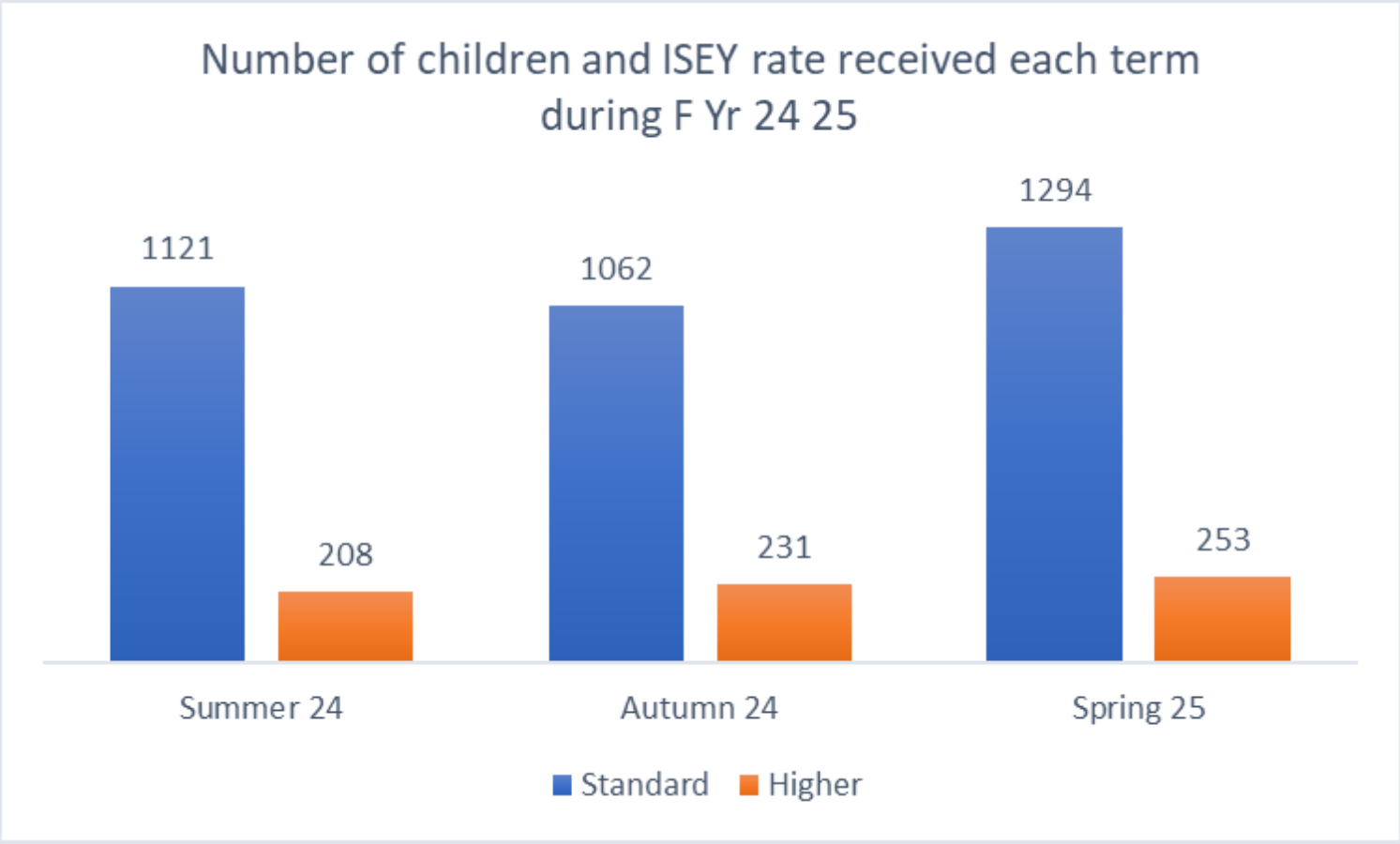
	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25
2 yr EEE	242	286	526
3 and 4 yr EEE	1037	1357	1453
Exceptional	89	106	38

Inclusion Support in Early Years



	Fyr 24/25	Summer 25	Autumn 1 25
15 hrs	85%	78%	74%
30 hrs	15%	22%	26%

Inclusion Support in Early Years
Rate of funding



Overall average of 19.6% of children received higher rate of funding each term

Inclusion Support in Early Years Rates and EHCP/SSPP

Funding:	Higher rate	Standard rate
SSPP	33	156
Final EHCP	159	**178**

In Partnership With:

SEND BIRMINGHAM

NHS Birmingham and Solihull

Birmingham City Council

BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST

#ADDITIONAL Not SPECIAL

BIRMINGHAM PARENT CARER FORUM

THE RISE Youth Forum

YES!

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