

FOCUSED INTERVENTION FUNDING (FIF)

One-page guide for SENCos • Hertfordshire • introduced 1 April 2026

1. IS FIF APPROPRIATE?

Mainstream school • child resident in Hertfordshire • needs are above Ordinarily Available Provision • time-limited focused intervention • unlikely to need an EHCP



2. WHICH STRAND?

4a = individual support
4b = group support
(Other FIF strands have separate criteria/processes)



3. WHAT IS NEEDED?

A specific intervention, not simply 1:1 staffing. Explain what, where, when and why, with clear expected outcomes.



4. GET THE EVIDENCE READY

- Latest + previous APDR cycles
- VSEND radar/profile or equivalent assessment
- Key needs and impact on access to education
 - Child/young person's view
- Relevant professional advice where available



5. SPECIFY THE INTERVENTION

Show what is already in place above OAP and what FIF will add.
Examples: intensive SALT programme, focused learning intervention, reintegration support, mentoring, nurture/social inclusion work.



6. DEFINE SUCCESS

Set measurable outcomes before applying:
progress in learning • improved attendance • increased access to school • improved socialisation • reintegration milestones



7. SEND TO DSPL MANAGER

Application goes to your DSPL manager, who distributes it to the relevant SENCo cluster.



8. SENCo CLUSTER

SEnCo presents the case. Cluster considers criteria, evidence and provision; may suggest amendments/support.



9. PANEL DECISION

Successful applications go to panel. Panel checks criteria, budget and agrees whether/for how long funding is allocated.



10. OUTCOME + IMPACT

DSPL manager informs school. Deliver intervention, monitor impact and report outcomes. Resubmissions need evidence of previous impact.

SENCo CHECK BEFORE SUBMISSION

- Intervention is above Ordinarily Available Provision
- Child is attending school (a reduced timetable must include a clear reintegration plan)
- Application describes the intervention – not just '1:1 support' or 'personalised curriculum'
- Evidence is concise, relevant and current (professional reports should be no older than 2 years; max 5 attachments)
- Parents have been informed and agree to the application
- Outcomes are specific and measurable