

## Consultation on the effective use of the Early Years Inclusion Grant and Disability Access Fund - February 2020

Slough Early Years Service is keen to ensure that Slough children receive the funding required to meet their individual needs.

We are therefore consulting with the sector on how we can broaden the use of the early years inclusion grant and utilise the DAF underspend in order to ensure that the funding directly reaches children.

### Q1 Are you aware of the various different funding streams available for early years children with SEND?

	I am aware of the criteria and know how to apply	I am aware of the criteria but unsure of how to apply	I am somewhat aware of the criteria and process to apply	I am not aware of the criteria or the process to apply
Disability access fund (DAF)	30%	21%	27%	21%
Early years inclusion grant	53%	18%	18%	12%
Early years inclusion fund	42%	15%	24%	18%

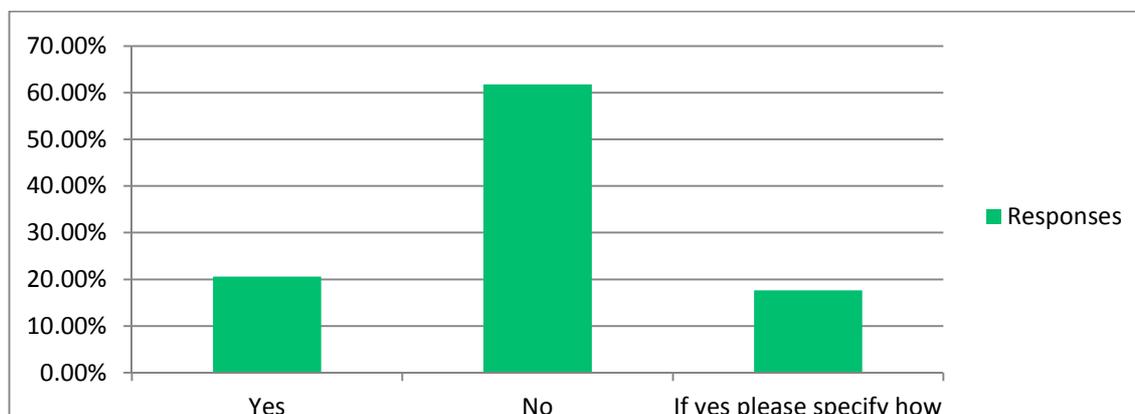
#### Action

- Slough Early Years Service will continue to work with providers to raise awareness of the funding entitlements
- Documentation relating to the funding entitlements are accessible on the Link website and will be available in the appendices of the Provider Agreement 2020

### Q2 In order to ensure that the Inclusion grant is awarded consistently, the following criteria applies:

- Provide evidence of the need for funding
- Provide information on costs and how funding will be spent
- Applications may include supporting evidence
- Be discussed and endorsed by the Early Years Senior Area SENCo, Early Years Advisory Teacher, SEN Advisory Teacher or Early Years Development Worker

### Do you think this process could be simplified /changed?



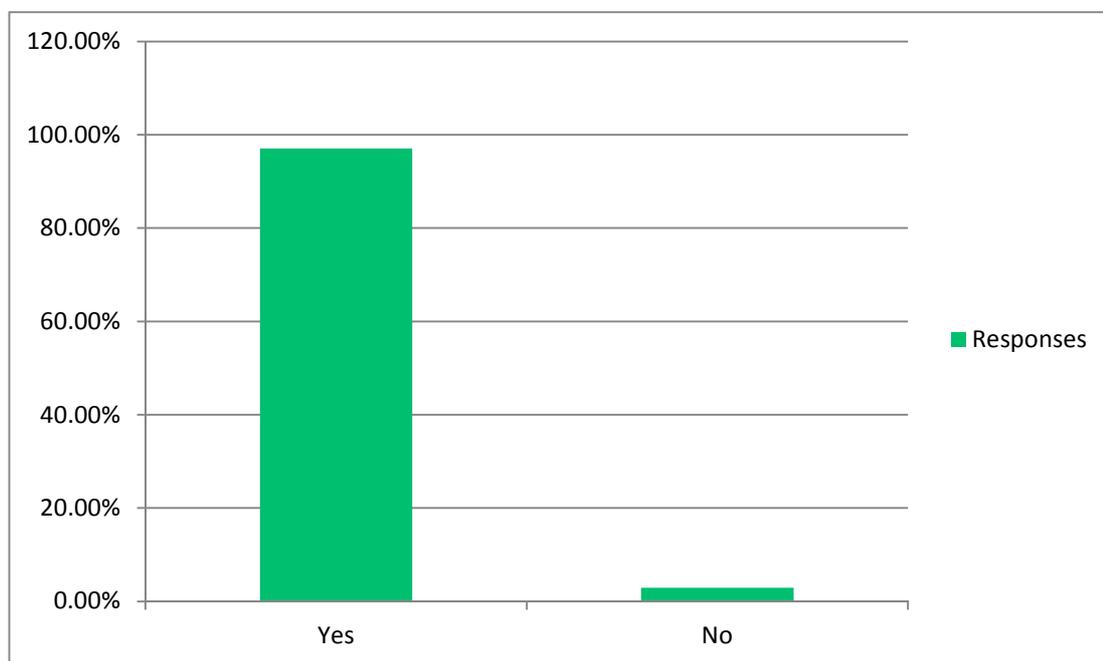
Additional suggestions included:

- Reducing the application paperwork
- Speed up the process between application and receiving funding
- Consider enabling other professionals to endorse the application such as speech and language therapists
- Consider the need for supporting evidence as this can cause a delay in applying
- Offer settings more support from the SENDCo to help identify children who may meet the criteria and with completing the application

*Actions*

- *Review the process and consider what other professionals could endorse the applications*
- *Highlight in the application that providers must provide evidence of the benefit the grant will have on children and supporting evidence is supplementary*
- *Continue to offer support from the Early Years SENDCo and help to guide the application process*

**Q3 Slough Early Years Service would like to utilise the funding to commission SEND training for the Early Years sector. Do you agree that the inclusion grant could be used in this way?**



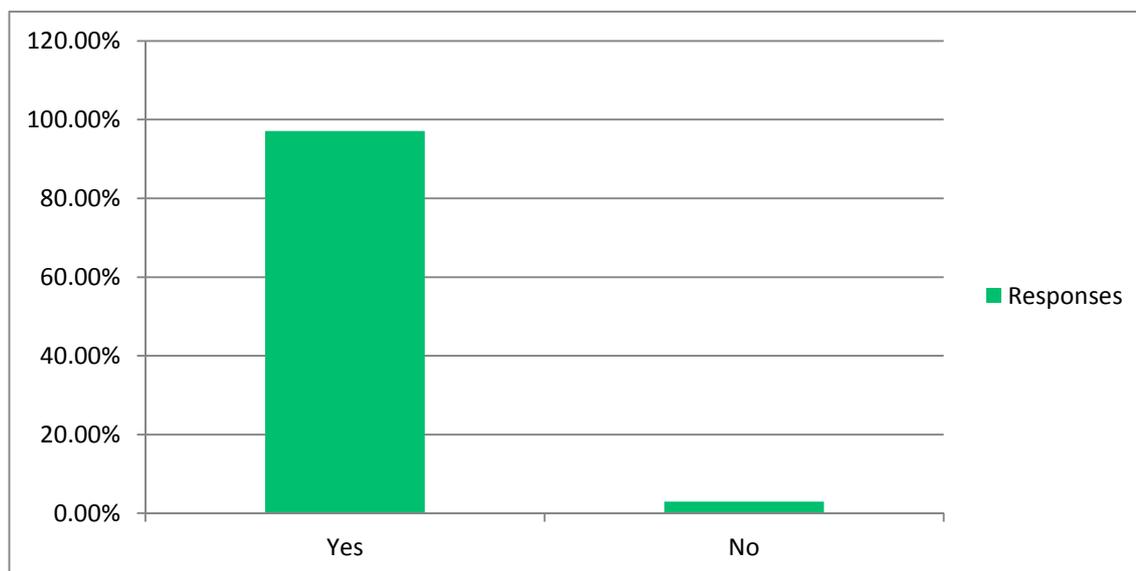
**Q4 From the list below please select all of the training your setting would be interested in.**

Answer Choices	
Meeting the needs of every child: SEND for Leaders and Managers in EY settings	50%
Meeting the needs of every child: SEND for EY practitioners	85%
Introduction to Inclusion	41%
The Curiosity Programme	56%
Attention Autism Programme	82%
Risk, resilience, and relationships in the early years	50%
Supporting Children with ASD in Early Years	76%
Team Teach	38%
Promoting Positive Behaviour	71%
Attachment Theory	76%
SEND: Courageous Conversations	53%
Other (please specify)	12%

**Actions**

- Slough Early Years Service will use the Early Years Inclusion Grant to commission training
- Slough Early Years Service will work with SEBDOS to organise training relevant to this area

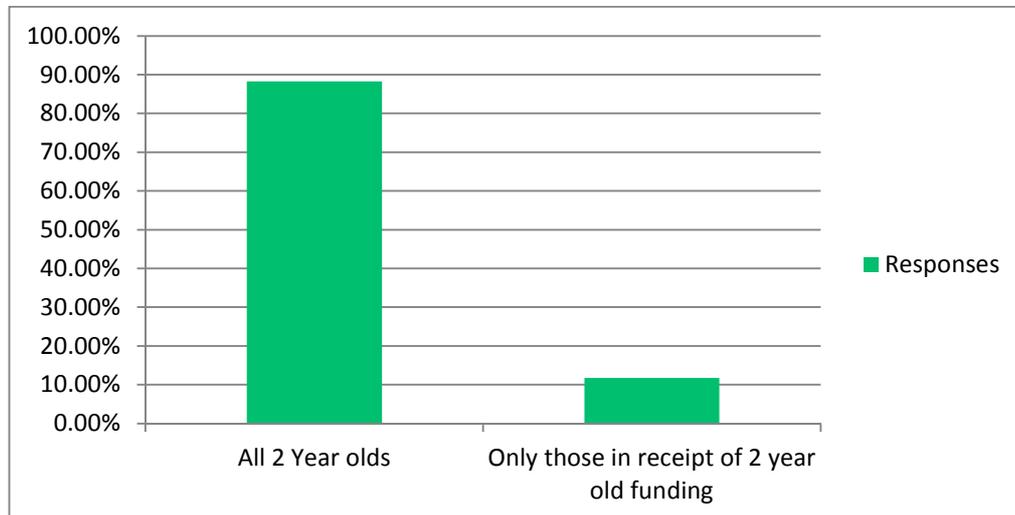
**Q5 Currently the Early Years Inclusion grant is for 3 & 4 year old children accessing funded early education. Would you be in favour of widening the criteria to enable grant applications for 2 year olds in receipt of funded early education with low level emerging SEND?**



**Action**

- Slough Early Years Service will amend the grant criteria to include 2 year olds from April 2020

**Q6 Do you think that the funds should be available to all 2 year olds attending a setting who are on the early years Ofsted register or restricted to 2 year olds in receipt of funded early education?**



*Action*

- *Slough Early Years Service will include all two year olds in the amended criteria for the Early Years Inclusion Grant*

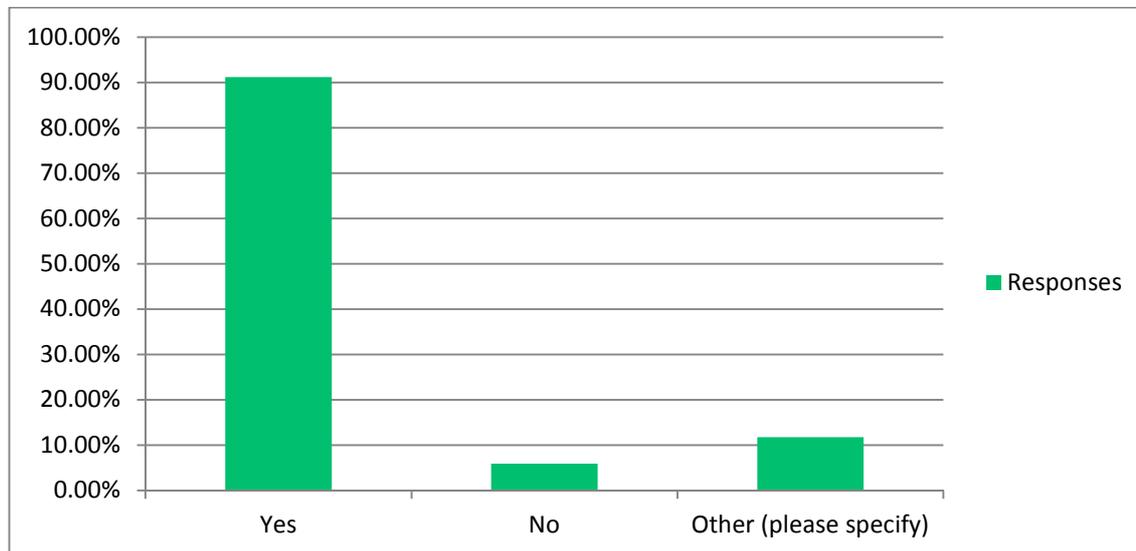
**Q7 In 2018 the DfE published the Level 3 Early Years SENCO qualification specification. The qualifications developed from this specification are intended to support early years practitioners to gain accreditation for the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to perform the Early Years SENCO role effectively. A train the trainer programme has been constructed in collaboration with professionals and Slough early years service is keen to role this out. We intend to use the funding to support the development of this qualification programme in Slough? Do you agree that the Inclusion Grant funding could be used in this way?**

Answer Choices	Responses
Strongly agree	47%
Agree	32%
Neither agree nor disagree	12%
Disagree	9%
Strongly disagree	0%

*Action*

- *79% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the inclusion grant funding could be used to develop the development of the Level 3 Early Years SENCO qualification; this will be planned and implemented throughout 2020.*

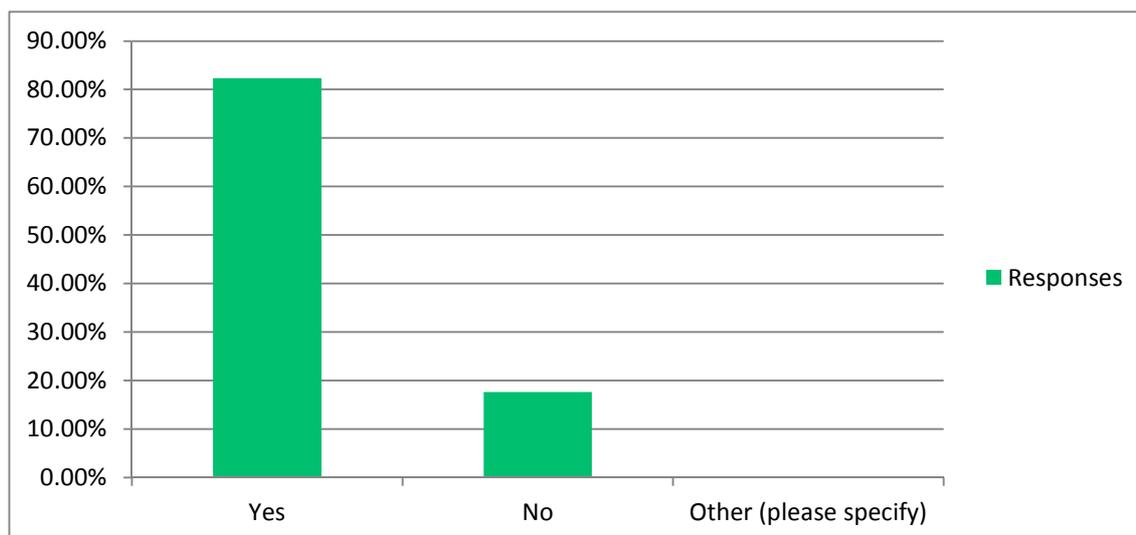
**Q8 Slough Early Years Service is considering using the Inclusion Grant funding to organise a SEND event/ conference for the early years sector. This would include a guest speaker and workshops during the summer term. Would you consider this a good use of the funding?**



**Action**

- *Slough Early Years Service will consider organise a SEND conference during 2020*

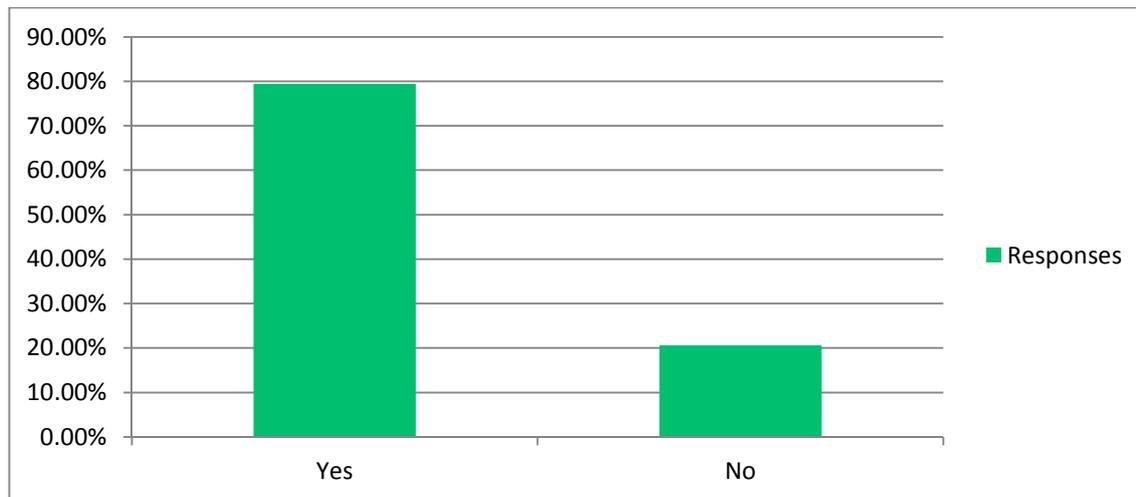
**Q9 Slough Early Years Service would like to utilise the Inclusion Grant funding to organise a transition event in the summer term with a focus on supporting children with SEND and the transition from early years provision into school. Do you agree that this would be a good use of the funding?**



**Action**

- *Slough Early Years Service will consider running a transition event / session during the summer 2020*

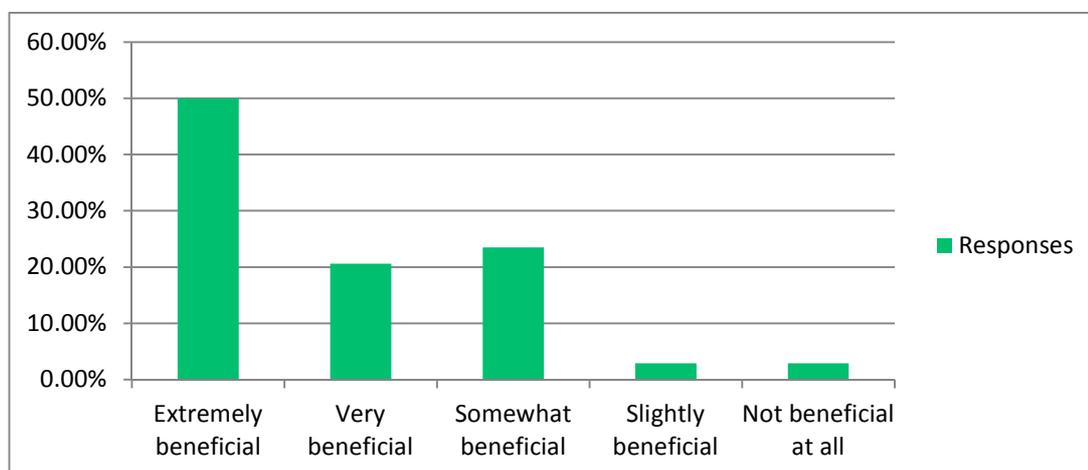
**Q10 Would your setting be interested in attending a transition event?**



**Actions**

- Market and promote the event to all providers including the positive benefits for children of partnership working across the sector

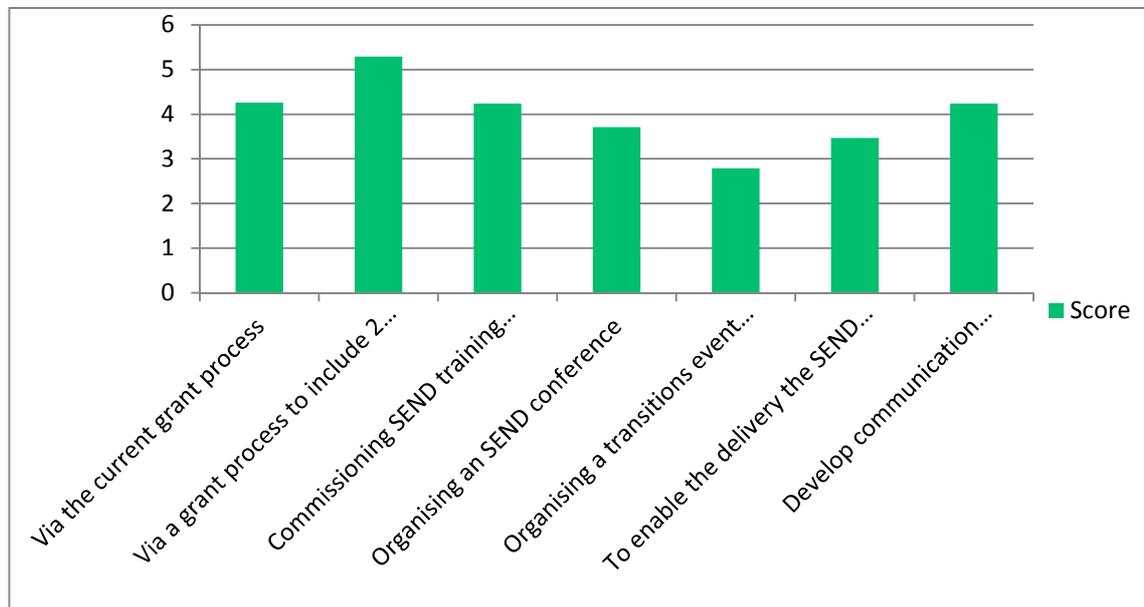
**Q11 There are many funding streams accessible for early years children with identified SEND. Do you think it would be beneficial to use the Inclusion Grant funding to create communication materials for parents and providers on how to navigate the various funding options?**



**Action**

- The majority of respondents felt that communication materials for parents / carers about the various funding available would have some benefit. Slough Early Years Service will develop some parent communication material.

**Q12 Currently the Early Years Inclusion grant is issued to providers who make an application. In order of priority how would you prefer the funding to be allocated?**



**Action**

- *Slough Early Years Service will review the budget allocation for the Inclusion Grant and priorities spend in accordance with the above table*

**Please could you tell us which type of setting you are from?**

Answer Choices	Responses
Childminder	35%
Day Nursery	12%
Pre School	15%
School Nursery class	12%
Nursery School	15%
Independent School	3%
Children's Centre	9%