

A close-up photograph of a young child with dark skin and hair, looking slightly to the right while holding a round, perforated cracker in their mouth. The child is wearing a grey and blue patterned sweater. The background is blurred, showing other children in a classroom or playroom setting.

EYPP, DAF & SENIF

Considering effective use

Today's session 10-11.30am

- Welcome, chair: James Hempsall
- Findings from the research, Barbara Wilson
- EYPP – an approach, Lincolnshire County Council
- Using DAF effectively, Stockport Council
- SENIF – improving systems and partnership work, Bexley Council
- Discussion, Q&A

**Research
undertaken February
and March 2020**

**Reported in
May 2020**

Findings: Barbara Wilson

- Consider how effectively EYPP was being accessed and used.
- Consider how effective SENIF and DAF have been in supporting children with SEND to access early years provision.

EYPP research aims:

1. Compare number of eligible children (where this is known) with number receiving EYPP.
2. LA feedback on reach and how take-up could be improved.
3. Whether and how LAs were monitoring impact and how this influenced planning for interventions.
4. Whether available LA data indicated a narrowing of the attainment gap.

EYPP key findings:

- Robust estimates of eligibility not available, therefore not possible to determine reach.
- Based on initial allocations 60.25% were in receipt in January 2019, with wide regional variation.
- 62% of survey respondents felt EYPP was an effective funding mechanism.
- Distribution largely based on a provider-led model.

EYPP key findings (2):

- Over a third of LAs reported increased take-up recently.
- Processes can make a difference, such as real time eligibility checks, automatic checking systems, and re-designed parent declaration forms.
- Impact? Assessment of EYPP interventions and outcomes comes under Ofsted's remit, not LAs'.

DAF and SENIF key aims:

1. How high is take-up from eligible families?
2. Are eligibility criteria for the funds an enabler or a barrier to children receiving the support they need?
3. Are these the right mechanisms to offer support to this cohort?

DAF and SENIF key findings:

- It is different in each LA area.
- The majority of LAs did not have an estimate of eligible numbers.
- There is variation in SENIF application and eligibility. This places an onus on LA messaging and restricts cross border information sharing.
- Take-up (and implied demand) is increasing.

DAF and SENIF key findings (2):

- SEND organisations felt information did not reach all parents effectively.
- Any application process or eligibility check regarded as a barrier to access.
- LAs reported positive experiences of SENIF and DAF but highlighted significant challenges. Measures of success vary.
- Provider could be better served with suggested use of funds.

Recommendations

EYPP	DAF	SENIF
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up-to-date estimates of eligibility to support LA focus and targeted work.• DfE/DWP lists of eligible children.• Link to deprivation funding.• Resources.• Monitoring impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide LAs with data.• Remove the need for parental application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standardise criteria and funding levels.• Provide clear information.• Streamline processes and customer journeys.• Ringfence SENIF to support a focus on take-up.• Identifying a gap in the use of the early years entitlements.

Recommendations across all:

EYPP, DAF & SENIF

- Root and branch review.
- Connect early years settings to schools to ensure a continuum of support.
- Offer suggested solutions and use to providers.
- Increase information for parents, SEND and parent organisations.
- Consider extending eligibility criteria.