

Priorities within the Early Years action plan have been drawn from Early Years SEND review and are in line with both SEND Improvement Priorities and those within the BSiL programme across Education & SEND and Public Health directorates and the Education and SEND Ambitions action plan:

1. Work at pace to develop a vision and strategy, co-produced with families and stakeholders, for EY and SEND that places the youngest children at the centre
2. Gather and analyse data to identify those most at need considering intersectionality, to ensure resources are targeted, taking account of sufficiency
3. Develop a transparent, responsive and robust approach to SENIF to meet need
4. Extend joint commissioning arrangements with health, including pooling resources to enable better EY service integration
5. Invest in developing the EY learning environments to better meet the needs of children with SEND
6. Develop a mechanism for the local offer to enable families of EY children with SEND to navigate the system and access the support and services
7. Refocus the EY provision to enable a rich universal offer with clear advice on ordinarily available provision and a graduated response to need
8. Establish a multi-disciplinary team approach with the right skills and level of support matched to need, including transition
9. Develop an integrated training and leadership support offer to build capacity within the sector to deliver the EY and SEND strategy

Priority areas	Actions	Success Criteria	Time Scale
1. Vision & Strategy	Co-produce EY & SEND vision with families, settings, health, social care	- Vision & strategy published - Evidence of co-production	Questionnaire sent out and completed: July 2026

Priority areas	Actions	Success Criteria	Time Scale
	- Develop written strategy with priorities & governance - Establish cross-sector steering group linked to BSiL EYs PB - Develop and complete questionnaire for key stakeholders- settings, parents /carers, childminders, children and other services	Governance structure in place: BSiL Eys Partnership Board (PB)	- Consultation with children: September 2026 - Draft vision: October 2026 - Strategy published: November 2026
2. Data & Needs Analysis	- Build integrated EY data intelligence platform - Analyse intersectionality (SEND + disadvantage) - Ofsted feed, ISI, Childminder agencies funding streams, IDACI data all captured - Map sufficiency, uptake & cross border movement	- Platform live & updated daily most up to date information is captured including tracking of take up for 9m, 2yr old > extended entitlement places - High need cohorts identified - Childcare sufficiency assessment includes SEND & disadvantage - Quality and safeguarding issues are quickly identified - Data informed applications for School Based Nursery programme - phase three	- Prototype: September 2026 - Full implementation: Dec 2027

Priority areas	Actions	Success Criteria	Time Scale
3. SENIF	- Finalise & publish new SENIF process. - Completed in line with EYs OAP document and will link in with banded funding for SENIF (A-D). - Funding to be categorised by need and funding amount to reflect need more accurately. - Link funding amount to SENIF consultation. - Formalise the panel process and invite key stakeholders to be involved. - Train settings on new pathway. - Introduce monitoring of impact & timeliness.	- Settings confident in process - Fewer incomplete/ low quality applications - Decisions within agreed timeframe - Greater transparency with EY on the process - Stronger governance and accountability	- New EY SEND support service launched: May 2026 - New Panel process in consultation with sector: September 2026 - Consult on process in line with EY OAP development - Launch: January 2027 - Impact review: June 2027
4. Joint Commissioning with Health	- Formalise joint commissioning arrangements - Develop integrated pathways (2-year check, SaLT drop-ins)	- Integrated 2-year check piloted - Fewer duplicated referrals	- Agreement drafted: December 2026 - Pilot: Jan 2027
5. EY Learning Environments	- Develop targeted improvement programme - Provide grants/resources to highest need settings- including DfE Inclusion Fund	- Improved environment audits - Improved SEND outcomes - Referrals for universal practice reduced	- Inclusion audit rolled out: May 2026 - Inclusion funding allocated: July 2026 - Design: July 2026

Priority areas	Actions	Success Criteria	Time Scale
	• Link improvements to GLD & SEND outcomes		• Rollout: Sep 2026–Jul 2027
6. Local Offer Navigation	• Create EY SEND Local Offer section • Develop parent friendly navigation tools • Introduce Local Offer Champions	• Local Offer section launched • Increased parent engagement • Positive family feedback	• Content: Jun–Aug 2026 • Launch: Sep 2026
7. Universal Offer & Graduated Response	• Develop and Finalise EY OAP document • Develop graduated response toolkit linking to Universal > Targeted > Specialist • Provide training & implementation support	• EY OAP published & used consistently across settings, send officers and other key stakeholders • Increased setting confidence in universal practices • Fewer inappropriate referrals • Fewer applications for SENIF at that universal level • Quality improvement in inclusion – review inclusion audits	• Training and CPD of all SEND officers: Ongoing • EY OAP finalised: November 2026 • EY OAP published January 2027 • Pilot with 12 settings November 2026 • Training all EY providers: January-February 2027 • Launch and publish to all EY settings January 2027 • Review impact December 2027
8. Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)	• Establish formal MDT model • Create EY→Reception transition pathways	• MDT meets monthly • All SEND children have transition plans	• MDT model agreed: Sep 2026 • Implementation: Jan 2027

Priority areas	Actions	Success Criteria	Time Scale
	- Implement setting level SEND Officer support - Transition pilot with selected schools- deep drive into challenges around transitions particularly with vulnerable groups	Improved access to specialist support	
9. Training & Leadership Development	- Develop EY SEND training offer - Build leadership capacity - Introduce CPD pathway for SEND officer - Develop structure of EY team - Develop EY Lead practitioners in the sector	- Higher satisfaction of providers - EY team that is working to build capacity within the sector - Better delivery of universal offer - Monthly cross team meetings between Early Years, Early Help and Sensory teams - Improved practice in QA visits - Integrated working with health and social care on the ground	- Recruitment of EY leads- September 2026 - Training offer for SEND officers: Jul 2026 - Team structure finalised: September 2026 - New team structure implemented January 2027 - CPD pathway designed and shared: Jan 2027