

# New Graduated Support Pathway Panel

Schools' Briefing Sessions: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

# New Graduated Support Pathway Panel

- Change to the process so that schools have an opportunity to present requests in person so that we can better understand the CYP's needs and what schools have already put in place as part of their graduated response
- An opportunity to receive advice and guidance from a panel of your peers (Senior Leaders and SENCOs)
- Faster access to high needs top-up funding for a longer period of time

# Key Changes

1. Requests will be presented by school staff at a panel
2. Funding will be awarded for 12 months as standard – no ‘1, 2 or 3 term’ option on the application form.
3. Schools will usually be unable to request GSP if an EHCNA request has been submitted or due to be submitted within the next 30-ish weeks.
4. Exception to point 2 above: CYP who have highly complex needs and an EHCP is agreed to be appropriate, but the school have not had the opportunity to do a graduated response (e.g. the CYP has come from abroad or there has been an unexpected incident in the CYP’s life). These cases will need prior agreement from the EHCP team due to the school needing funding in the short term to keep the child safe.
5. There will be limitations on using GSP to fund Alternative Provision.

# Use of GSP for Alternative Provision

## **Registered provision**

Schools cannot request funding to cover the costs associated with registered AP (TMBSS). This is because this offer is already subsidised by the LA.

## **Use of unregistered provision at secondary**

Secondary schools will not generally be able to request funding to cover the costs of unregistered AP – this is because all secondary schools are already being supported to provide AP through the AP Development Fund.

# Use of GSP for Alternative Provision

## Use of unregistered provision at primary

Primary schools will be able to request funding to cover the cost of **short term** (up to 6 weeks) AP provided the following conditions are met:

- All other avenues of support and strategies have already been tried
- The need for AP is agreed by the panel (ideally it will have been recommended by an independent external professional)
- Intended outcomes are clearly identified
- The school has also undertaken a thorough QA process and evidence of this is provided with the application
- Parent carers agree to the use of unregistered AP

# GSP Requests

- Requests for funding when:
  - ✓ School require funding above the notional budget to meet a CYP's needs - this may be for a short-term need / early intervention
  - ✓ A significant and long-term need has been identified and school require funding to continue to support while they collate evidence for an EHCNA (*please see note below re concurrent requests*).
- Funding will be granted for 12 months as standard (some flexibility)
- Schools should not request GSP and an EHCNA at the same time – GSP process should run its course before submitting an EHCNA request.

# GSP Process

- Panel meets monthly: one primary panel, one secondary panel each month.
- GSP forms will be available to download from the Local Offer by the end of this week - **please ensure you use the new request form as this outlines to parent carers how the requests will be discussed.**
- Any requests received on the old forms for the remainder of this academic year will be considered at RAP panel in the existing way. From September onwards, any requests received on the old paperwork will not be processed.

# In the month preceding the panel

- Schools submit by completing required paperwork and upload to their GSP folder in the SEND Portal.
- **You must not upload any paperwork without signed parent carer consent** – remember that parent carers are consenting for data sharing, not for a funding request. If you upload evidence without signed consent then you have breached GDPR.
- EQAs move requests to either the Primary Review folder or the Secondary Review folder depending on age of the child.
- Cut –off for requests being considered is 2 weeks prior to the meeting – any received after that date will be moved to the following month’s panel.
- Schools can submit more than one request but if the panel is full, some of you requests may be moved to the following month’s panel. If this is the case, we will contact you and ask which request needs to take priority.



## 2 weeks before panel

- All received requests are triaged by the panel co-chairs
- If the request is inappropriate or there is information missing, we will e-mail school to explain why and offer resubmission **the following month** if outstanding actions are completed.
- If request is accepted, files are transferred to the live panel folder which is accessible to panel members via a dedicated SharePoint site.

# Panel Preparation

## **10 days before panel**

- Schools informed of their allocated time slot and sent a Teams invite.

## **1 week before panel**

- E-mail sent to panel members to remind them to look in the live panel folder and read the paperwork ahead of the panel.

# GSP Panel Membership

- **Sarah Court**, Education Quality Adviser, SEND and AP (Panel Co-Chair)
- **Emma Simkins**, Education Quality Adviser, SEND and AP (Panel Co-Chair)
- **Heidi White**, Education Quality Adviser, SEND and AP (Panel Co-Chair - reserve)
  
- **Laith Al-Asmar**, SENCo, St Mary's Primary School, Shawbury
- **Ronan Walsh**, Headteacher, Gobowen Primary School
- **Rachel Stokes**, Assistant Head and SENCo, The Corbet School
- **Rachel Butterfield**, Trust SENCo, Empower Multi Academy Trust
- **Sian Bowdler**, SENCo, Meole Brace Primary School
- **Carl Rogers**, Executive Head, Pathway Primary Federation
- **Angela Poole**, Assistant Head and SEND Hub Manager, Pathway Primary Federation
- **Gemma Davies**, SENCo and SEND Hub Lead, Ellesmere Primary School
- **Catherine Lyth**, Primary headteacher, TMBSS
- **James Pearson**, Secondary Headteacher, TMBSS
- **Sue Dix**, SENCo, S Martin's 3-16 Learning Community
- **Sarah Longhurst**, Mary Webb School
- **Lucy Lee**, Headteacher, Severndale Specialist Academy
- **Su Quye**, SENCo, Church Stretton School
- **Ruth Bennett**, SENCo, William Brookes School
- **Cheryl White**, SENCo, The Priory School
- **Kate Hare**, SENCo, Meole Brace School

*Panel membership will be refreshed at least annually*

*LA colleagues (e.g. NDPs, Senior Case Officers, EPs) will attend as availability allows*

# During the meeting

- You will have a 10 minute slot for both presentation of your request and for the panel to ask questions.
- Please do not just read aloud your request form – panel have already seen this. This is an opportunity for you to add context and help the panel to answer the following key questions in order to make a decision:
  - ✓ Does the application meet the criteria set out in the Shropshire GSP guidance document?
  - ✓ Is there clear evidence of need?
  - ✓ Is there clear evidence of a high-quality graduated response?
  - ✓ Are the costings submitted fair and appropriate?
  - ✓ Is an EHCNA request more appropriate?

*Funding level decisions will be made by the LA*

# After your panel slot

- Panel will discuss each request and make a decision on whether to grant funding.
- The final decision on the level of funding awarded will be made by the LA co-chairs with advice from EHCP team as required.

## **One week after the meeting**

- Business Support send decision letters to schools via the SEND Portal.

## **2 weeks after the meeting**

- Funding commences.

***The request for additional funding must be supported by the following paperwork and will not be processed until the information listed below is submitted./***

These items to be included		Please Tick
Appropriately signed request form		<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil Centred Plan /APDR ( <i>minimum of 2 cycles, school/setting's own format will be accepted</i> ) – <b>must have been reviewed</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil Centred Plan and Review (GSP)	<b>Blue</b> section: for new requests	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Orange</b> section – for repeat requests	<input type="checkbox"/>
Costed Provision Map – must clearly outline provision already in place and any proposed provision		<input type="checkbox"/>
One page profile – <i>school/settings own format will be accepted</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Behaviour Support Plan – <i>if applicable</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Help Assessment – <i>if applicable</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>
If the CYP is in receipt of Pupil Premium, clear evidence of how this funding is being used to meet identified needs.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence of outside agency involvement as part of graduated response – <i>include any available reports</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>

# Panel Dates

## Primary Panel

Panel Date <i>(all panels are 9am – 12pm)</i>	Request submission deadline
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June

## Secondary Panel

Panel Date <i>(all panels are 9am – 12pm)</i>	Request submission deadline
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July

# *Questions*

