



Department
for Education

Welcome to the
Early Years Disadvantage
VCS Grants 2018-2020
Briefing Session

Friday 13th July: 11am -12:30pm

The Early Years Disadvantage VCS Programme 2018-2020

Date: Friday 13th July from 11.00 -12.30 pm

Agenda

Purpose: For organisations to find out more about this grant round is objectives and process.

11:00– 11:15	Refreshments
11:15 – 11:25	Welcome and Introductions
11:25 – 11:45	EY Disadvantage Programme aims and objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disadvantage Priority Theme1 – Closing the disadvantage Gap at age 5• Disadvantage Priority Theme 2 - EY Special Educational Needs and Disabilities• Essential Eligibility Criteria
11:45 – 12:05	Q&A Session: (20mins)
12:05 – 12:15	Final Points
12:15 – 12:30	Networking and CLOSE

Early Years Disadvantage VCS Grants 2018-20

Purpose:

A national VCS programme to help support two early years disadvantage delivery priorities:

Priority 1: Closing the Disadvantage Gap at age 5

Priority 2: Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (EYSEND)

This grant round aims to improve the support directly available to disadvantaged parents as well as that for settings and local authorities.

Funding Available

- £6.5 million for an 18-month period (up to £2.8m from Oct'18- Mar'19 and up to £3.7m from Apr'19 – Mar'20)
- The exact number and size of individual grants will depend on the range and quality of bids received but we are expecting to award fewer grants than in previous rounds. We expect bids to be no lower than £250,000 (pro rata) for each financial year.

As a national programme, this grant programme is not seeking to fund:

research related activity, pilots, small scale local innovation projects, services or activities designed to meet local delivery needs which we would expect to be commissioned locally.

Bidders need to demonstrate the ability to scale up, replicate and move towards sustainability over the funding period. We expect all successful organisations to be able to demonstrate how they will become progressively self-sustaining.

Timetable

Activity	Timescale
Invitation to bid published	Sunday 1st July 2018
VCS briefing session	Friday 13 th July 2018
Deadline for bids	noon Fri 27th July 2018
Notification of outcome	Early September 2018
Due diligence checks and grant clarification period	Early September 2018
Early Years grants awarded and grant funding agreements finalised	End of September 2018
Funded activity begins	1 October 2018



Department
for Education

Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential

Narrowing
the
development
gap at age 5

Overarching Ambition

No community left behind. Putting real emphasis on the range of places where resources and additional targeting are needed the most, with our Opportunity Areas at the sharp end to tackle the most entrenched disadvantage.



Life Stage Ambitions

Ambition 1. Close the word gap in the early years.



Children with strong foundations start school in a position to progress, but too many children fall behind early. We need to tackle development gaps, especially key early language and literacy skills.

Ambition 2. Close the attainment gap in school while continuing to raise standards for all.



The attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their more affluent peers at school is closing. But, these pupils still remain behind. We will build on recent reforms, and raise standards in the areas where it is now most needed.

Ambition 3. High quality post-16 education routes for all young people.

We need a skills revolution with business to make technical education world class. More people go to university than ever before, including more disadvantaged young people, but we need to expand access further to the best universities.



Ambition 4. Everyone achieving their full potential in rewarding careers.

We need to improve access for young people from lower income backgrounds to networks of advice, information and experiences of work. Working with employers, we will support adults to retrain/upskill during their careers.



Ways of Working

Identifying and spreading what works



Putting evidence at the heart of our approach; embedding and extending successful reforms; developing our evidence base further; and spreading best practice to where it is needed.

Building lasting success through partnership



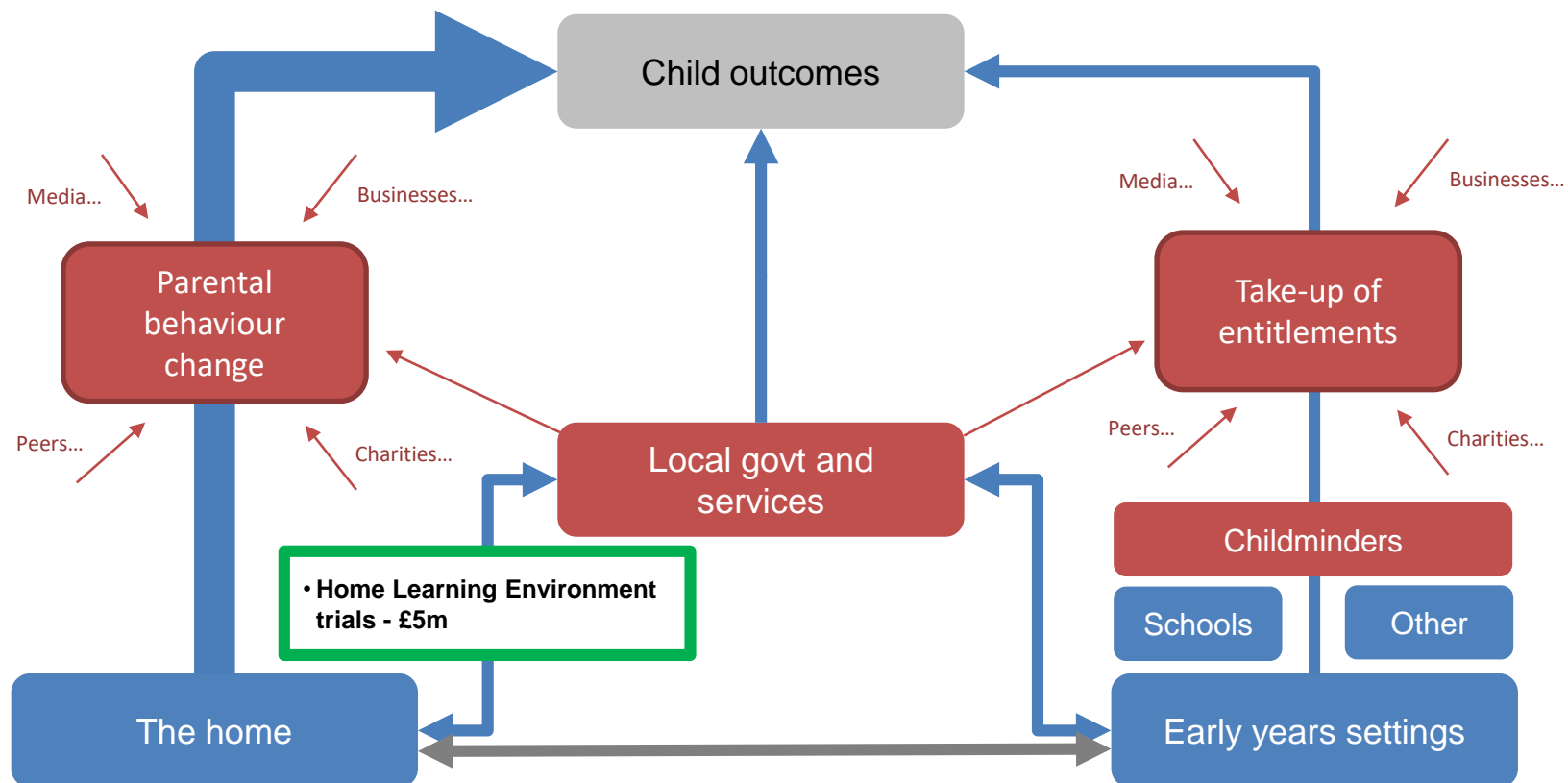
Asking key partners - whether employers, business, educators, or civil society - to step up and join a united coalition which will rally behind this plan and these ambitions to unlock potential for all.

The Department for Education published 'Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential: a plan for improving social mobility through education' on 14 December 2017, which sets out the Government's ambitions for the wider education system, making sure that great education translates into great opportunities and jobs for everyone.

"The five ambitions will guide our work and help us direct resource and support towards the people and places that need it most - both the overarching ambition on place, which is about ensuring that no community is left behind, and the four life stage ambitions which aim to tackle the challenges that hold people back throughout their lives."

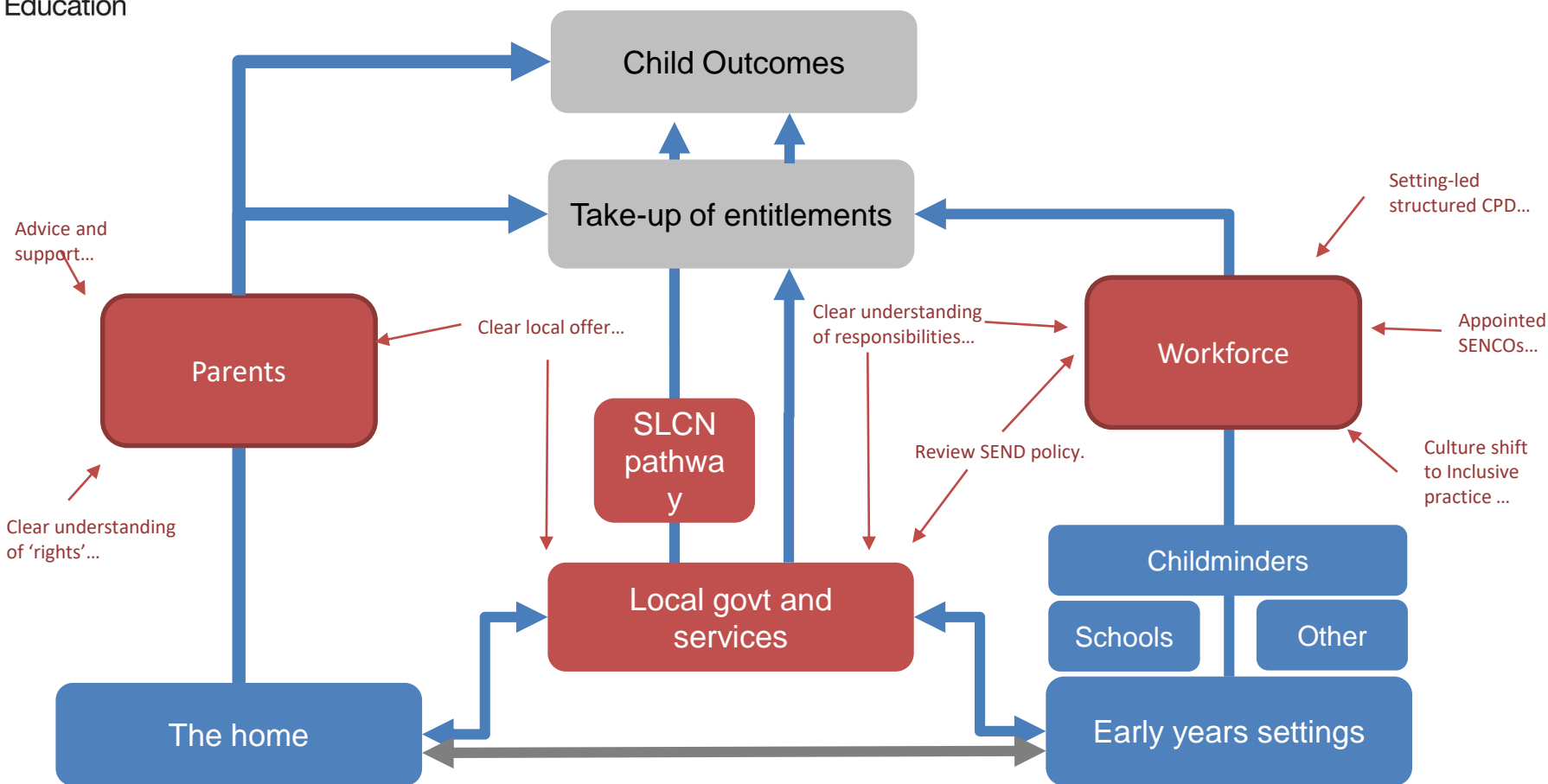


Priority 1: Narrowing the gap





Priority 2: Early Years SEND



Priority 1: Closing the Disadvantage Gap at age 5

This priority seeks to support the first two ‘challenges’ outlined in *Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential*:

1. Ensure more disadvantaged children are able to experience a language rich early environment.
2. Improving the availability and take-up of high quality early years provision by disadvantaged children.

We are seeking national proposals that can support us to:

- **Increase disadvantaged parents’ awareness of the importance of the home learning environment** to improve the quantity and quality of parent-child interaction, particularly with references to developing language and literacy skills.
- **Improve disadvantaged families’ awareness and knowledge on how to take-up the two-year-old, 30 hours and EYPP entitlements.** We are particularly interested in outreach approaches that are able to successfully articulate and communicate the early years entitlements as a progression route into employment/to increase hours of work for the most underrepresented groups
- **Maintain and develop our support to increase numbers of school and childminder partnerships** (this could also include private, voluntary and independent organisations (PVIs)) that can offer flexible childcare, particularly in disadvantaged areas.

Priority 2:EYSEND

This priority seeks address the delivery 'challenges' outlined below:

1. All children with SEND should to be able to access all the early years entitlements they are eligible for, including the 30 hours of free early education a week for working parents, which was rolled out in September 2017.
2. We know take-up of the free entitlements among children with SEND is lower than for other children
3. Many early years providers lack the knowledge and confidence needed to provide these children with the best support possible.

We are seeking national proposals that can support us to:

- **Improve the confidence and knowledge of the workforce** to identify and support children with SEND.
- **Increase parental confidence and knowledge** to help parents support their child and to identify what other support is on offer; how to access it and to act as empowered consumers, getting the best from their child's place.
- **Ensure LAs have the right strategies in place to ensure take-up of quality provision for children with SEND and to enable effective, integrated multi-agency working.** The LA should operate as a system leader to empower providers (supply) and parents (demand) making best use of available funding and resources. The local strategy and provision should be communicated clearly in the Local Offer.
- **LAs (and partners) develop and implement effective speech, language and communication (SLCN) pathways in the early years.** To deliver this outcome, we expect bidders to use the new guidance on SLCN pathways, which DfE and PHE will publish by Autumn 2018, as a basis to engage LAs and relevant partners to review their local provision and support them to put in place agreed SLCN pathways.

Eligibility Checklist



Please read the eligibility information checklist before you go to the time and expense of submitting an application.



We are only seeking bids from national organisations with strategic capability to provide flexible strategic development support to the Department.

Essential Criteria for all bidders

- **Prior experience** in delivering national projects
- **Scale up, replicate and move towards sustainability** over the funding period.
- **Be user led**
- **Willingness to work collaboratively with the Department** to support early years overarching strategic aims over the funding period (October'18 – Mar'20).
- **Flexibly adapt delivery plans and budgets**
- **Put forward plans for light-touch evaluation for your project**
- Whole bid should be on a '**not for profit basis**'
- **Lead body must be VCSE** (sole/consortium/partnerships bids)
- **England Only**
- Bid does **not** include an application for **any funding for capital expenditure**

Bidders should demonstrate their capability in one or more of this eligibility criteria

- **National Significance and specialist expertise** in nationally engaging 'hard to reach' underrepresented groups.
- **Working in an integrated way**
- **Innovative ways to build on proven national approaches including consolidating work** to utilise existing resources, materials and services already available and making effective use of digital technology.

This is a national grant programme; we are not seeking to fund research related activity, pilots, small scale local innovation/delivery projects, services or activities which we would expect to be commissioned locally.



1. Please be aware this is a competitive process and we are not able to respond to enquiries about individual proposals.
2. **The enquiry email box will close at 5pm today (Friday 13th July 2018)**
EnquiriesEarlyYears.VCSGRANTS@education.gov.uk.
3. We will revise our FAQ document by close **Thursday 19th July** to include details of questions asked and answered here in this briefing event.
4. **Deadline** for bids is **Noon Friday 27th July 2018**. Please send them to
EarlyYears.VCSGRANTS@education.gov.uk

Thank you for coming
&
Good luck!

