

What is the Graduate Leader Fund?

It is a three-year government grant that commenced in 2008 that is allocated as part of the SureStart, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) replacing the Transformation Fund (TF). Its aim is specifically to support progression toward creating and sustaining sufficient graduate Early Years Professionals in the private, voluntary and independent sectors, ensuring all Full Daycare settings can have a graduate leader by 2015, with two in settings for children in the 30% most disadvantaged areas, in order to help reduce inequalities in children's outcomes.

What is an Early Years Professional?

Early Years Professionals (EYPs) work in a wide range of roles in group settings such as nurseries and children's centres. They lead practice, support other practitioners and are central to helping children develop from birth until the age of five, a crucial time in a child's life. Early Years Professional Status pathways are funded directly through CWDC.

To apply for EYP Pathway Funding your PVI setting must be on the Early Years Register for full daycare (open a minimum of 4 hours+ per day, 5 days per week, 38 weeks of the year) or be an Extended Sessional group offering sessions of at least 5 hours per day, on at least 3 days per week, 38+ weeks per year.

The following information can be viewed/downloaded from 'Early Years Professional Status' in the Training section of www.earlyyearschildcare.org

- SSSP EYP GLF Flowchart & Framework
- SSSP EYP GLF Terms and Conditions
- SSSP EYP GLF Pathway examples
- SSSP Graduate leader Fund - EYP Pathway application form (setting to complete, nominated person to read & sign 'Nominated Person Declaration').
- * SSSP Level 5 & 6 Qualification Funding application form (nominated person to complete, setting to read & sign 'Setting Declaration', Training Provider to sign 'Training Provider Recommendation', Student Bursary will automatically be awarded with qualification funding. Study release funding will be awarded if requested by setting on the application form).
- SSSP EYP GLF Maths & English GCSE application form
- * SSSP Supply Cover application form

You should ensure that you read through all of the documentation and understand the commitment that you are making. You are also recommended to visit the CWDC website - www.cwdcouncil.org.uk as there is a great deal of information pertaining to EYP and Graduate leaders.

* Supply Cover application forms, Level 5 & 6 Qualification Funding application forms and the Student Withdrawal form (exit questionnaire) can be found on the training pages of the SSSP website www.earlyyearschildcare.org please also visit these pages for up-to-date information.

We wish to confirm that existing Early Years Foundation Degree (EYFD) funding for a candidate due to commence year 2 or 3 of their EYFD in September 2010 will continue until the end of their foundation degree irrespective of their intention to continue to EYPS. They will not automatically be awarded funding to continue onto the BA. Settings may have a different EYP candidate (nominated person).

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate in contacting Workforce Development at Swindon Sure Start Partnership on 01793 464314 or e-mail ntopp@swindon.gov.uk