

## Local Support for under 5's with SEND and early years settings

There is a wide range of support available for children and families with low to complex levels of need. The priority for Nottinghamshire is to equip universal and targeted services with the skills and resources to adequately support children and families and ensure they meet statutory duties as described in the SEND Code of Practice (2014), the Children and Families Act (2014), The Childcare Act (2016) and the Equality Act 2010.

Within Nottinghamshire County Council, there are key services working with children under the age of 5 with SEND.

- **Early Childhood Service** is the lead service for early years provision in Nottinghamshire. They administer early years funding allocations and payments, and provide data analysis, strategic policy support, marketing and engagement with the early years sector.
- **District Specialist Early Years Teachers within the Early Childhood Service** offer a range of support for early years settings by fulfilling the following roles:
  - Act as the Area SENCO for PVI providers across each district (schools have their own SENCO roles).
  - Provide training and support packages
  - Develop and cascade guidance
  - Support for all early years providers including Schools and PVI.
- **Schools and Families Specialist Services (SFSS)** provide Early Years Specialist Teachers who deliver advice, support and teaching primarily for the child in the home from birth to the end of KS1 with severe and complex needs. Additionally this team share this practice with the child's setting and support with any transitions.
- **Integrated Children's Disability Service** provides a range of services to support children with complex disabilities. Services include short breaks and DCATCH home care packages.

## The Graduated Approach to SEND Support 0 - 4 year olds

### Universal Services

*Improving outcomes for children and young people with a disability is everyone's business and not just the responsibility of those who work in specialist services.*

- All children and families have access to the SEND Local Offer which brings together information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), from birth to 25 years, and their families. The offer helps families identify appropriate support, information and services.
- Each early years setting has their own SENCO role who provides advice and support to colleagues and ensures that they understand their responsibilities. The SENCO ensures that parents are closely involved throughout, as well as close liaison with external professionals and specialists.
- Early Childhood Services provide an 'Area SENCO' role through Early Years

<p>Specialist Teachers. Area SENCOs provide advice and guidance to early years providers on the development of inclusive early learning environments. The Area SENCO helps make the links between education, health and social care to facilitate appropriate early provision for children with SEN and their transition to compulsory schooling. They provide district SENCO networks to offering further support to early years settings. These networks also link with Family of School SENCO Networks to aid transition support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each early years setting has a Language Lead who can identify and support developmental delay. The Council facilitates locality Language Lead networks.</li> <li>• There are a number of additional Council led support networks for PVI settings including early years locality groups.</li> <li>• Early Childhood Services Specialist Teachers provide responsive support to early years settings through telephone and email.</li> <li>• Early Childhood Services provide a range of training and support packages for all early years settings to support their work with SEND. This includes buddying and development of local guidance documents.</li> <li>• Children's Centres provide a range of universal services and activities for families and children under the age of 5.</li> <li>• Healthy Families Teams provide health checks at key stages of the child's life in the early years. They provide advice and guidance to all families with children under the age of 5.</li> <li>• National and Local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations such as IRIS (information service for children of children with SEND in Nottinghamshire); The Deaf Society, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Targeted Services</b></p> <p>All of the above, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Help Unit and Early Help Assessment forms help to identify the right support package for a child or family with concerns.</li> <li>• The Integrated Children's Disability Service provides advice and support to professionals.</li> <li>• Health Services e.g. Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist</li> <li>• Support for referrals to specialist teams, e.g. Schools and Families Specialist Services</li> <li>• Concerning Behaviours Pathway</li> <li>• Children's Centres provide Family Support Workers for families with children with emerging SEND needs.</li> <li>• Children's Centres provide the Home Talk home visiting service, which is a targeted speech and language service for children aged between 2 and 2½ years with expressive language delay.</li> <li>• Children's Centres provide a range of evidence based parenting programmes to support families with a range of issues, many of which aim to improve outcomes for children with SEND, as well as support for parents.</li> <li>• Health Services e.g. Occupational Therapist, Acute Services, Speech and Language Therapist, Community Nursing Teams, Physiotherapy etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Specialist Services</b></p> <p>All of the above plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-agency support through EHC plans</li> <li>• Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund</li> </ul>

- Early Years Disability Access Fund
- Integrated Children's Disability Service DCATCH homecare packages to provide childcare for children in their own home
- Integrated Children's Disability Service Short Breaks Service
- Integrated Children's Disability Service provide support and assessment of Education, Health and Care Plans
- Integrated Children's Disability Service provide Occupational Therapy Assessments.
- Schools and Families Specialist Services including Sensory Services.
- Specialist Health Services (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Speech and Language Therapy etc.)