

The Specialist Early Years Support Team and Educational Psychology Service

Brief description of each service, entry process and exit criteria

EARLY SUPPORT is a way of working that aims to improve the delivery of services for disabled children, young people and their families. It enables services to coordinate their activity better and provide families with a single point of contact and continuity through key working. It ensures that service delivery is child, young person and family-centred. It focuses on enabling services and practitioners to work in partnership with children, young people and their families.

Who can refer:

A referral can be made by any agency: Health, Education or Social Care. We also welcome referrals from families themselves.

Referral Criteria:

- Child aged 0-5th birthday
- Has complex and/or multiple health, social or educational needs or a disability
- Receives support from 3 or more services eg. Health, Education or Children's Social Care
- Lives within the City of York

Exit Criteria:

- Child reaches their 5th birthday
- Child transfers to Hob Moor Oaks

PORTAGE is a home visiting education service for pre-school children with disabilities and/or additional needs. The aim of Portage is to help parents help children develop and learn.

Who can refer:

Parents can refer themselves and referrals can be made by any agency - Health, Education, Social Care, Voluntary Sector etc.

Referral Criteria:

- Child aged 0 – 5th birthday
- Has difficulties in more than one area of development or a diagnosis which may predict such difficulties
- Lives within the City of York
- Child born low-weight pre-term who are at risk of developmental difficulties
- Child in care of the local authority where there are concerns about their development

Exit Criteria:

- Child reaches their 5th birthday
- Child transfers to Hob Moor Oaks or St Paul's Enhanced Resource placement
- Child transfers to maintained school nursery (an exception might be a very later referral with exceptional home circumstances)
- Child is eligible for 3 Year Funding and have received Portage for six months, Portage would cease and the child will be referred to the Specialist Early Years Teachers (SEN).
- If child makes significant progress and Portage is no longer required.

At each Portage review provision/support is discussed to ensure needs are still at the level required for Portage input. Portage may signpost to other services if parents/carers still require support.

SPECIALIST EARLY YEARS TEACHERS (SEN) have expertise and training in child development, early learning and meeting the needs of children with additional needs in the early years. They aim to enable pre-school children with additional needs to access the Early Years Foundation Stage as fully as possible and support families and other professionals in developing their skills.

Who can refer:

Early Years practitioners and professionals from other agencies, such as Health or Social Care can make referrals. These must always be made with the signed consent of a parent or carer.

Referral Criteria:

- The child is aged between 2 and 5 years
- The child's primary area of need is cognition and learning; SEMH; or communication and interaction (if the child's speech and language needs impact on his/her learning)
- The child lives in York and either attends a York early years setting or does not yet attend an early years setting; OR the child lives outside York, but attends a York early years setting
- The child has been supported and evidence is provided of interventions at Band 1 and/or 2
- The child may be known to the Specialist Teaching Team, but the primary area of need has changed to cognition and learning

Exit Criteria:

- Child reaches the end of Foundation Stage 1
- At the My Agreed Outcomes/My Support Plan review meeting it is agreed the child's needs would be best described as Band 1 due to progress
- If the child is given a diagnosis of autism (the child would then be referred to the Specialist Teacher for Autism)
- Child transfers to Hob Moor Oaks

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS provide advice on children's development to practitioners, staff and parents/carers through direct casework, training and consultation

Who can request EP involvement:

- For Early Years cases, Specialist Teachers and Portage Home Visitors can request involvement (with parental agreement)
- If a child/young person is attending a York school or setting (early years or Post-16), the involvement of the Educational Psychologist is negotiated with the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO), usually at the termly planning meeting. There must be parental permission or permission from the young person if over 16 yrs.

Criteria to request EP Involvement:

- Children/young people who are at Band 2 (or above) prioritised by their educational setting for EP involvement.
- For children/young people who have a My Support Plan, the specialist teachers and/or practitioners should alert the Educational Psychologist following the first My Support Plan review if they are not making satisfactory progress at Band 2, or needs have increased to Band 3, or if they need to access specialist provision.
- Child/young person requires Statutory Assessment as agreed by EHC Panel
- Child/young person has an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan

Exit Criteria:

- Child/young person makes significant progress and the educational settings, together with parents, feel their needs can be met by SEN Support without requiring EP involvement
- Child/young person moves out of area so the EHCP is maintained by another Local Authority.
- Young person's EHCP ceases due to them leaving education or reaching the age of 25 years.