

## **Early Support Delivery Model**

Early Support is a way of working which aims to improve the way that services work with disabled children and their families, keeping families and children at the centre of decision making and putting their needs first.

Most children with additional needs and disabilities will have their needs met by universal services such as Health Visitors, Childcare & early years education and Child & Family Centres. Specialist and targeted services are available for children with complex additional needs.

When there are concerns about a child’s development either from their family or identified at a routine health and development assessment and additional support is required, an Early Help Assessment (EHA) may be completed with the family by a professional working with them. This brings information together to help understand, what the needs of the child and family are and what support or services are needed.

Early Support is the single access point for referrals where a child 0-5 years old is identified as having significant and complex additional needs affecting their development and learning or disability and they require on-going specialist support from services across health, education and social care. This includes children who have great difficulty communicating, have sensory, learning or physical difficulties and/or complex health needs. All will need additional support with many aspects of their daily lives and it is probable that there will be a lifelong impact on their development and learning.

Early Support coordinators can be contacted by professionals and parents/carers. They provide support to personalise the timing and coordination of referrals, assessment, planning, service involvements and support. They provide and sign post to information and act as a central point for coordination and contact.