# Early Support pathway

## A. Identification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria for Early Support</th>
<th><a href="http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/early-support">www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/early-support</a></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children from birth until the end of Year R, at Primary school, who meet all of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Have significant and complex additional needs or disability affecting development and learning</td>
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<td>2. Require considerable ongoing specialist support from across Education, Health and Care</td>
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<td>3. It is anticipated their needs will have a lifelong impact to their development/learning.</td>
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<td>This includes children who have great difficulty communicating, have sensory or physical difficulties and/or complex health needs; all will need additional support with many aspects of daily life.</td>
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Complete **Early Help Assessment (EHA)** with family, clearly state ‘referral to Early Support’. Send with additional supporting information to the Early Help Hub (EHH)

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early.helphub@cambridgeshire.gcsx.gov.uk
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EHH completes safeguarding checks and standard hub process then sends EHA and supporting information to Early Support (ES) within 72 hours.

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early.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
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## B. Decision Making

**Multi-agency Early Support Referrals Meeting**

Referrers can attend to discuss their referral

## C. Actions

**Decision letter** sent by ES coordinator to family and copied to referrer/EHA initiator.

**Children meeting ES criteria** - EHA sent by ES coordinator to child’s local Children’s Centre and services that will become involved with the child and family.

**Children not meeting ES criteria** - ES coordinator shares recommendations made at ES referral meeting with EHA initiator and EHH.

**Family journey:** Family contacted within 5 working days of Referrals Meeting by referrer/EHA initiator to explain next steps, support the family’s journey and share the Family File.

**Think Family processes followed:**

- **Team around the Family meeting** arranged by EHA initiator and held within 8 weeks of ES referrals meeting. Parents and professionals together develop a multi-agency, coordinated and integrated, holistic **Family Support Plan** to meet the identified needs of the child and family.
- **Lead Professional** (LP) agreed with parents/carers to coordinate services, support and planning.
- **Family Support Plan reviewed** at Team around the Family(TAF) meetings every 6 months or earlier dependant on the child and family’s needs; to identify positive changes or challenges, review the appropriateness of support and resources, making alterations where needed and plan for next steps and transitions.

**The Early Support coordinators** provide a support offer to lead professionals of children and families following the **Early Support pathway** to aid integrated provision; they can be contacted by professionals and parents/carers.

Support is available to:

- Support Think Family processes by coordinating referrals, assessment, planning, support and services.
- Act as a source of expertise and knowledge of pathways, services, support, resources and information across agencies for children with additional needs related to development and learning.
- Provide, on request, solution focussed recommendations to LPs before/after TAF meetings to ensure families know about the full range of support on offer to support their holistic needs.
- Aid integrated working by e.g. coordinating and sharing information across agencies to aid decision making and diagnoses. Coordinating the ‘Post diagnosis family support pathway’ to ensure timely support is offered to families after diagnosis. Share information to aid effective planning and transitions from and into health, Early Years settings, entry to school or other areas and services.