

# Integrated commissioning strategy for early years services for children with additional needs

2008 – 2011

**Phase 1 2008 - 2009**

## Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Vision</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>National Context</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Local Overview</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Definitions</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Strategic Direction</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Aims</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Principles</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Needs Analysis</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Strategy for Change</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Specialist Children’s Assessment Centres</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Links with the Special Schools Multi Agency Core Offer (Special Schools as Hubs of Outreach services)</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Mainstream schools and Early Years Settings</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Therapy Services</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Carers Breaks Provision for Children with Additional Needs Age 0-5</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Workforce</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>AXS Pathway and Supporting Services and Processes</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Neo Natal Pathway</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Information Services</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Safeguarding</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Training and Supervision</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Notes</b>	<b>22</b>

This strategy has been produced by Devon County Council and Devon Primary Care Trust for Devon Children’s Trust.

Devon Children’s Trust is a partnership between social care, education, health, community, voluntary and justice services working together to make a difference for Devon’s children and young people.

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## Introduction

Devon Children's Trust Partnership wants all children and especially those with additional needs to have the best start in life. We will provide the ongoing support they and their families need to fulfil their potential, achieve as much in a range of areas as their non disabled peers and improve their outcomes, allowing them to benefit from the quality of opportunity and increasing their involvement and inclusion in society.

This Integrated Commissioning Strategy comes under the auspices of the Devon Children's Trust Partnership and will seek to achieve improvements in Integrated Early Years Services for children with additional needs and their families over the next three years, from 2008-2011. The Strategy follows the previous Joint Agency Strategy and the work undertaken through the Honeylands review process and is intended to deliver the Early Support Programme and support the further integration of services for all children 0-5 in Devon.

This Strategy is informed by the Devon Early Years needs analysis 2008. It will sit within a Strategic Planning Framework under the ***Devon Children and Young People's Plan*** and the ***Integrated Commissioning Strategy for Children with Additional Needs 2008-2011***.

This strategy describes the proposal for the way forward for services for children and young people with additional needs, levels 2 and 3, and their families/carers across Devon. The proposals are the result not only of the needs analysis but of a series of conversation events with participation of 250 parent's carers and users of services.

This strategy will ensure services in Devon meet the requirements of key national documents such as ***National Service Framework (NSF)***, ***Every Child Matters, Aiming high for Disabled Children*** and ***Better Care Better lives***.

The Honeyland's Review is a comprehensive review of Child Development Centres activity undertaken by the Children's Trust and included parent carer consultations, national best practice model reviews and reviews of all local services. It is available through contacting the Centre manager at the Honeyland's Child Development Centre<sup>1</sup>.

1. Honeylands Children's Centre, Pinhoe Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 8AD  
Phone: 01392 207777 [honeylands@rdeft.nhs.uk](mailto:honeylands@rdeft.nhs.uk)

## Vision

In the course of the next 3 years there will be a change in the focus of services so that they are:-

- Planned and commissioned across Devon Primary Care Trust and Devon Children and Young People's Services through the Devon Children's Trust Partnership
- Led by a joint commissioning board and a partnership board to be known as the Children with Additional Needs Partnership Board
- Is accessible, equitable and acceptable to all those who meet the Devon criteria for children with additional needs and recognises diversity in the make up of these needs
- Evidence informed and consistent with ongoing research, good practice and development in this field.
- Provides a consistent journey for children and young people in a timely and responsive way across disciplines and agencies
- A range of holistic support with emphasis on early intervention to enable children and their families to achieve their full potential
- Inclusive of children and young people and their families being actively involved in all decisions affecting them and shaping services.

## National Context

Over recent years the government has produced a number of significant policy documents relating to children in the early years and also to those with special needs. The emphasis throughout is upon the welfare of the child, the right for families to access local community services, to participate in decision making about their child and ensuring that all early years settings promote inclusion. The government's aim is to ensure that every child, irrespective of race, gender, or circumstances gets the best start in life and the ongoing support that they and their families need to allow them to fulfil their potential. The following represent an overview of recent national policy direction.

- Every Child Matters<sup>2</sup>, has a focus on early intervention, preventative work, and integrated services for children. The government has introduced its 10 year strategy for child care which sets a new agenda for improvement and both national and local level.
- The National Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services<sup>3</sup>, Standard 3, Child Young Person and Family Centred Services. Children young people and families receive high quality services which are co-ordinated around their individual family needs and take account of their views.

- Removing Barriers to Achievement (2004)<sup>4</sup> sets out the government's vision for giving children with special educational needs and disabilities the opportunity to succeed.
- The Disability Discrimination Act, 2006<sup>5</sup> requires Early Years settings not to treat disabled children "less favourably", and to make "reasonable adjustments" for disabled children.
- Aiming High for Disabled Children<sup>6</sup> the government wants to ensure that disabled children and their families are enabled and empowered to make a full contribution to the society of which they are part.
- The Early Support Programme<sup>7</sup> is a national programme aimed at co-ordinating all early years services whether they are for health, education or social care services. New national materials are available, including a Family Pack with extensive information booklets, provided on a wide range of special needs and disabilities, and there is a family held records of the child's needs.
- The Early Years Outcomes Duty<sup>8</sup> makes it a priority to: Provide the best start for all children, reduce inequalities by focusing on children most at risk of poor outcomes and delivering integrated early childhood services that meet individual needs.
- Better Care Better Live<sup>9</sup> outlines national guidance for the delivery of integrated Palliative Care services and services for children and young people with Long Term and Life Limiting conditions.

**2. [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)**

**3. [www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NationalServiceFrameworks/Children/DH\\_4089111](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NationalServiceFrameworks/Children/DH_4089111)**

**4. [www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/eyfs/resources/downloads/removing-barriers](http://www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/eyfs/resources/downloads/removing-barriers)**

**5. [www.gov.im/lib/docs/infocentre/acts/disability](http://www.gov.im/lib/docs/infocentre/acts/disability)**

**6. [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/ahdc](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/ahdc)**

**7. [www.earlysupport.org.uk](http://www.earlysupport.org.uk)**

**8. [www.surestart.gov.uk/](http://www.surestart.gov.uk/)**

**9. [www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2008/DEP2008-0451.pdf](http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2008/DEP2008-0451.pdf)**

**10. <http://www.devonchildrenstrust.org.uk/index/axs.htm>**

## Local Overview

This document has been informed by:

- An in depth local needs analysis.
- Wider consultation with parents and carers across Devon including a series of conversation events with 200+ participants
- Development of Joint Agency Services (DCC/DPCT) to support children aged from 0 to 5 with special needs
- The implementation of the AXS pathway<sup>10</sup>. (Community based integrated pathways)
- The review of Child Development Centres from the Honeylands working group, Exeter, and the annual review from Highfield House Child Development Centre, Barnstaple.
- The development of Children's Centres across Devon
- The review of Nursery Plus provision.

There has been a lack of clarity over the roles and interface of the various services supporting children with additional needs. This overview and subsequent action plan maps the need and existing provision, identifies gaps and proposes ways of avoiding duplication. The 2006 Joint Area Review also emphasised the inconsistent pattern of provision across Devon for children with additional needs.

The Devon Children's Trust has identified this group of children as a priority when reviewing and developing services, recognising the importance, both to the child and family, of early assessment and intervention. Children with additional needs in the Early Years are consequently a priority in the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 [CYPP].<sup>11</sup>

A multi agency steering group has worked on developing this commissioning strategy. Membership includes colleagues from the Joint Commissioning Unit, Early Years Services, Social Care, Devon PCT, Portage, County Special Education Team, Education Psychology Service as well as parental representation.

Stakeholder days have been held to access the views of parents/carers and a range of professionals, the outcomes of which have been included in this Strategy.

## Definitions

Children with additional needs who require additional support assessment and intervention at level 2 (AXS) and may be identified through the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice at Action Plus in pre-school/school settings and require a Common Assessment Framework approach.

Devon Joint Agency Record Criteria for Children with Special Needs- Moderate Level.

Children with additional needs requiring the support of two or more specialist services, having a Statement of Special Educational Needs and /or being supported by Social Care due to their needs identified through Common Assessment Framework or social care initial assessment meeting Child In Need criteria. Joint Agency Record Severe/Profound(Complex).

## Strategic Direction

Every Child will be able to meet their full potential through a combination of health education and social support including:

- Roll out Early Support Programme [ESP] across Devon
- Health Visitors taking responsibility for introducing the ESP to parents/carers
- Provide training for parents/carers and staff in the ESP
- Develop and implement the Early Years additional needs pathway
- Develop specification and Commission three specialist Children's Assessment Centres, one in Northern Devon, one in Eastern Devon and one in the South Western Devon with Outreach provision.
- Review the Nursery Plus Service Level Agreement by March 2010
- Develop the Core Offer to AXS Clusters and Special Schools to identify Therapy capacity to work in and from Children's Centres and special schools
- Review statutory assessment processes with a view to integrating assessments by September 2008 to reduce duplication and streamline the assessment process from Early Years settings into school.
- By 2011 provide clarity of information and access to services for children and young people, their parents carers and professionals.
- Provide timely intervention at appropriate levels
- Ensure the involvement of children and young people in the planning implementation and monitoring of services they use.
- Support innovative practice responsive to local need
- Ensure a smooth pathway for children and young people and their families from early identification to transition.

## Aims

This strategy forms part of the Integrated Strategy for Children with Additional Needs with the overall aim of improving the delivery of local accessible and equitable needs informed services for children and young people with additional needs in Devon.

The strategy will aim to achieve the requirements under the Every Child Matters outcomes, the National Service Framework , Aiming High for Disabled Children and Better Care Better Lives.

To make the best joint use of all resources to support early intervention and early diagnosis thus minimising escalation of need.

## Objectives

Ensuring one key worker/lead professional for every child and family with additional or complex need.

Establishing clear pathways and referral routes through AXS levels 1, 2 3

Providing appropriate and sufficient training for parents/carers and staff

Implementing the Nursery Plus Service Level Agreement

Ensure good communication links between tertiary and cross boundary services.

## Principles

- Services to be developed around the child, for example in children's centres
- Services provided as close to the child's home as possible
- Services will be accessible, equitable and relevant to the child's needs
- Early and appropriate interventions
- There will be flexibility in carers breaks
- Services will be evidenced and research based
- Will work with parents and carers to shape services for their children and families
- Young people with disabilities and their families will have transparency in the delivery of services
- To be cost effective and good value.

## Needs Analysis

There are approximately 4,100 children and young people in Devon with identified special needs, who have either a statement of SEN and/or are known to the JAS, [from birth to 19]. This represents some 2.8% of the population under 19. In addition, there are approximately 2,500 children and young people identified in schools as school action or school action plus. Whilst this report focuses on children with special needs up to their fifth birthday all ages need to be considered in order to project and plan.

10.2 There are 202 children under five known to the Joint Agency Services in Devon who have identified special needs accessing a complex set of services. These services are not consistently and equitably available across Devon. This number of children is disproportionately low when compared to older age groups because of the difficulties in early identification of needs in very young children and the patchy availability of services.

National and Local population estimations will see an increase in the number of children with complex special needs over the next 10 years which will increase demand on early palliative care and respite services for complex needs and specialist assessment services.

The Devon County Council and Devon Primary Care Trust Strategic Needs Analysis will become the source of future mapping for this group of children.

## Strategy for Change

### Current Services:

There are a range of different services and providers currently available across Devon mainly due to the following historical factors:

- Joint Agency Services had until 2007 been developed in the North and East of the County, but not in the South and West
- The South and West have particular boundary challenges with the unitary authorities of Torbay and Plymouth
- The historical sitting of provision, such as child development centres, nursery plus provision and respite facilities
- Inequitable therapy provision
- Inconsistent parenting support when a child with special needs is going through diagnosis and or treatment
- There is identified an inequitable carers breaks provision in Early Years settings
- There is no formal or consistent Palliative care service for children with Life Limiting and Life threatening conditions except Cancer
- There are no consistent or co-ordinated services for children with long term conditions
- There have been wide variances of waiting times for therapy services across Devon

### To improve services we will:

- We will develop services around centres of expertise with outreach capacity from three children's specialist assessment centres across Devon. These will be in Northern Devon, Southern Devon and Eastern Devon. This will include reviewing service provision at John Parkes and Scott Hospital with a view to identifying provision that can best meet needs for Devon children and updating our commissioning specification for Honeylands Child Development Centre and Highfield House Child Development Centre, to enable the provision of a consistent and equitable service across all areas of Devon
- Develop specialist services for children with additional needs around existing and new children centres
- Roll out a programme of introducing the Early Support Programme as the key way of working with families for early identification
- Develop the protocols and services with all Devon schools to strengthen the transitions from Early Years into school settings
- Develop outreach specialist support for children in mainstream schools
- Implement the proposed pathway for under 5s with special needs. (see appendix 1)
- Review and develop services for children and young people with long term conditions and those requiring integrated Palliative Care.

## Specialist Children's Assessment Centres

Devon currently has two child development centres within its working boundaries at Honeylands in Exeter (Royal Devon and Exeter Hospitals Trust), serving Exeter, East and Mid areas, Highfield House (North Devon District Hospitals Trust) in Barnstaple, North Devon and some cross boundary services in Plymouth at Scott Hospital (Plymouth Hospitals Trust) and Torbay John Parkes Unit (South Devon Health Care Trust) accessed by South Devon families.

We intend to Commission and develop centres of expertise around three specialist children's assessment centres located in North Devon, Exeter and South Devon. The educational input and support will be linked to the local special schools provision as developed by the Stepping Stones Strategy to Inclusive Learning.

Children with complex needs should be assessed in a structured programme in the Specialist Children's Assessment Centres (SCAC) by the specialist team around the child after which parents and professionals will agree an action plan.

The SCAC will provide support and information as required to the local children's centre. It may be that if there are a small identified group of children in a local area the specialist team around the child will do an assessment which would normally be held at the SCAC. The specialist team will work responsively to meet local need. The SCAC will provide the functions as described in the service specification (Appendix 1)

## Specialist Child Assessment Centres and their relationship with Locality Children's Centres

Children with additional needs at moderate level in the Devon Criteria for Children with Special Needs will be assessed in their local community by utilising the children's centre as a hub of support and assessment. A multi disciplinary team around the child will work in a structured programme at Level 2 AXS after which parents and professionals will agree an action plan. There will be support from specialist services to enable this to happen through targeted outreach services, which is described in the Service Specification. (Appendix 1)

The aim will be to identify in each geographical area physical access to children's centres. Community provision for outreach from the specialist assessment centre which will link to the provision of aspects of the Child Health Contract which will include community paediatric Consultants and other community based health assessments .

## Links with the Special Schools Multi Agency Core Offer (Special Schools as Hubs of Outreach services)

The aims and objectives behind this approach are part of the ambition set down in the CYPP that Devon children need to receive services in their communities and as such we need to develop a continuum of services through the AXS cluster delivery and area with level 3 services to support more children and young people in Devon Communities and reduce the amount of young people who currently go into Independent sector placements. Key to this is the pathway from Early Years settings into school.

We want to provide a multi agency core offer for special schools in Devon based upon needs analysis of school populations, current staff engaged with the child and family are the current resources available.

The principles of the core offer are that all Devon Special schools will receive a baseline health services offer. This includes the three principle therapies of Occupational Therapy Physiotherapy and Speech and Language Therapy. Where highly specialist skills within those professions are identified the provider service will work towards providing these as appropriate for the population for example sensory integration trained occupational therapists.

The provision across Devon will be based upon needs analysis and will be equitable to the population of the schools.

## Mainstream schools and Early Years Settings

All staff should aim to be involved in the provision of a multi agency core offer. This will be part of the outreach services linked to special schools as a hub to AXS clusters where they will link with mainstream schools, children centres and home based activity.

## Therapy Services

Paediatric therapy services will be provided as a key element of the integrated approach and the identification of appropriate skilled therapy staff as part of the continuum of provision will be essential to link all areas of the AXS pathway level 1,2 and 3.

Physiotherapists work to maximise the functional potential of children with a wide range of movement and learning difficulties through thorough assessment, appropriate intervention using exercise and equipment and through advice and training to families and other Carers.

Occupational Therapists work with children and their families helping them to carry out the activities that they need or want to do in order to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Specialist areas of paediatric Occupational Therapy are essential in providing holistic early years assessments.

Speech and Language Therapists work in partnership with individuals, experiencing speech, language, communication or swallowing difficulties and their families and with other professions and agencies to reduce the impact of these often isolating difficulties on people's well being and their ability to participate in daily life.

## Carers Breaks Provision for Children with Additional Needs Age 0-5

Respite Care" services including overnight care will be developed and commissioned through the Integrated Strategy for Carers Breaks, Residential and Shared Care services which will be part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children/Better Care Better Lives Programme in Devon.

Issues for current linked provision will be addressed on an individual service basis and the Carers Breaks Commissioning Strategy will run alongside this Strategy to enable clarification of all aspects of services provision

## Workforce

The developing workforce will be part of a realignment of education, health and social care staff working more directly with special schools and community clusters (AXS).

This will be linked to the training strategy for Early Years and Child care services. There will also be a clear process for sharing skills between practitioners within specialist settings and those in community settings.

A workforce competencies framework will be developed which will include clear provision of Safeguarding practice, Equality and Diversity including Cultural competencies, and specialist training in specific areas of complex and additional needs

The AXS pathway describes levels of need from Universal to Level 3 designed to give families speedy access to services if their child is particularly vulnerable, has additional, special or complex needs for which universal service provision is insufficient. The level of services required is likely to change over time.

## AXS Pathway and Supporting Services and Processes

**Practitioner Assessment of Carer and Child Needs:** Practitioners will Identify additional needs at Level 1 and are those working in universal services e.g. midwives, health visitors, staff in early years and childcare settings. Paediatricians and therapists will be involved with babies receiving Special Care in hospital, who may require Level 2 services on discharge, or who may be fast-tracked to Level 3 services. If universal services can meet needs then information-giving or signposting e.g. to the local Children's Centre may be all that is required.

**Individual/Couple/Group Support:** These services may come from the midwife, health visitor or via a Children's Centre. It also includes specialist befriending services e.g. Face-to-Face ([www.face2facenetwork.org.uk](http://www.face2facenetwork.org.uk)) which offers post-diagnosis support to parents. Some services perform more than one function e.g. Portage which provides emotional support to the parents as well as empowering them to assess and progress their child's development. Some are condition-specific e.g. Diabetes or Cystic Fibrosis Nurse.

**Early Support Programme:** Will provide a set of information booklets and support materials for parents of young children who are likely to have significant developmental impairment. For babies identified as deaf through the neonatal screening programme, a Teacher of the Deaf will be assigned to deliver the programme. In all other cases, the Health Visitor is responsible for either delivering the programme themselves or

arranging for another practitioner to do so. For further information, see [www.earlysupport.org.uk](http://www.earlysupport.org.uk) or contact your local DISC Plus Information Co-ordinator via [www.devon.gov.uk/discplus](http://www.devon.gov.uk/discplus)

**The Common Assessment Framework:** Is a paper format which a practitioner from any discipline, agency or service can use to record a child's additional needs, relevant family history and action plan. Parental consent is sought to sharing the information with others involved in supporting the family. For more information and electronic version of the CAF see [www.ecm.gov.uk/caf](http://www.ecm.gov.uk/caf)

**Lead Professional:** Are practitioners responsible for co-ordinating service delivery to a child at Level 2 of the AXS pathway.

**Early Years Family Service Plan:** is the equivalent of a Common Assessment Action Plan for a child whose parents are documenting progress through the Early Support Programme with the help of a Lead Professional. Support for such a child is likely to be at Early Years Action (see the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs [www.dcsf.gov.uk/sen](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/sen)) and Level 2 of the AXS pathway.

**Early Years plus Family Service Plan:** is the equivalent of the proposed plan and services sections of an Integrated Assessment and Service Plan or Review for a child whose parents are documenting progress through the Early Support Programme with the help of a Key Worker. Support for such a child is likely to be at Early Years Action Plus (see the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs [www.dcsf.gov.uk/sen](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/sen)) and Level 3 of the AXS pathway.

**Family File:** is a family-held record held by all families of children 0 – 5 with additional needs which practitioners involved in assessment or service delivery add to. It can function as an aid to information-sharing e.g. therapist writes advice on skill development which can then be shown to childcare provider. For children at Early Years Plus of the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs, the Family File helps the County Special Education Team decide whether a statutory assessment of special educational needs should be undertaken. (See Guidance Criteria for Statutory Assessment and Resource Allocation).

**Integrated Assessment:** is the process by which a child requiring specialist input from more than one agency can have their needs assessed and a service plan devised. For children under 5 this process will be documented in the Family File and entered onto the Integrated IT system with parental consent. Practitioner assessments may take place in the child's own home, the early years setting used by the child/family or at a specialist children's centre. An Initial Key Worker from an Integrated Assessment Team co-ordinates the process for the family. Once the Service Plan is agreed the Key Worker can be the Parent themselves, a relative nominated by them, or a practitioner involved in service delivery.

**Key Worker:** Is a Practitioner, Parent or Carer responsible for co-ordinating service delivery for a child at Level 3 of the AXS pathway.

**Fair Access to Carer's Breaks:** is an assessment format used to determine the amount of funded services families can expect to receive which fulfil the function of a carer's break. This includes services delivered in the home which enable a parent to give more attention to a sibling, sitting services which allow them to leave their child(ren) at home and services which care for their child during the day or overnight away from home.

**The Enabling Service:** will match children with carers with experience and/or training in relevant special needs issues. The carer can support the parents in the home, or take the child out, enabling them to join in activities with their siblings or in the local community.

**Family-Based Carer's Breaks:** Will provide Carers who are approved to look after children in the Carer's home overnight. Currently Devon has a contract with the NCH Family Breaks Service who provide 24 hour periods of care forming part or all of the Fair Access to Carer's Breaks allocation.

**Residential Setting:** a setting which provide day or overnight care to children under the Fair Access to Carer's Breaks scheme and can also provide an assessment facility for children requiring observation and or treatment which would otherwise require hospital admission. Such settings may form part of the Early Years Action or Early Years Action Plus Family Service Plan.

**Portage:** is a home-based service which helps parents chart and progress their required to break down developmental milestones and analyse tasks in very small steps so that appropriate targets can be set for and achieved by children with significant disabilities. The Early Support Programme can be delivered as part of the service. Input and advice is provided to early years settings the child attends and the service can oversee the transition into school where appropriate.

**Supportive Early Years Setting:** can be a children's centre, pre-school, day nursery, nursery class, reception class or other setting where staff have undertaken training in the Early Support Programme and/or Lead Professional/Key Worker training.

## Neo Natal Pathway

**Specialist Early Years Setting:** will be a children's centre providing specialist assessment and or treatment services for children at Early Years Action or Early Years Action Plus. Assessment/treatment may be delivered by outreach to a children's centre close to the child's home or at the centre itself. The Specialist Early Years Setting may also provide a base for Parent Support/Training, or staff contributions to such programmes in local community venues.

**Specialist Medical Assessment:** is for children with unstable epilepsy, or others for whom it is difficult to establish optimal medication regimes, may require periods of observation or treatment out of the family home. This may be arranged during the day and/or overnight at a Specialist Early Years or Residential Setting.

**PACTS (Parents of Autistic Children Training and Support):** is an intensive home-based programme for pre-school children on the autistic spectrum. Parents receive up to 10.5 hours per week support from a specialist in the management of autistic spectrum disorders. The service also provides input and advice to early years settings the child attends and can oversee the transition into school where appropriate.

**Earlybird:** is a workshop programme for parents/carers of pre-school children with autistic spectrum disorders.

All babies on Neo-Natal units who have been identified as requiring specialist developmental input by the consultant Neo-natal specialist should be referred to the Joint Agency Service and assessed on the unit by members of the Specialist Child Assessment Centre team.

## Information Services

- Disabled children young people and their families can expect information which covers
- Access to mainstream as well as specialist services
- Voluntary and independent sector
- Housing Leisure and transport
- Key transition points
- That adheres to the principles of being:
  - Accessible
  - Available
  - Relevant
  - Joined up
  - User focused.

## Safeguarding

The local safeguarding children board will ensure that there are strategies and protocols in place to ensure that disabled children and young people are safeguarded from emotional, physical sexual abuse and neglect in line with 'working together to safeguard children'. All staff working in the services arranged for the 0-5 pathways will receive relevant training advice and supervision following Devon Safeguarding Board guidance.

## Training & Supervision

All staff will be trained and supported in line with national /professional guidance and recommendations. This will include appropriate levels of clinical and professional supervision.

Staff will be supported and trained to enable them to adapt and work within multi-agency teams.

It is recognised that training needs to be available for parents and carers to access appropriately. Whenever possible or appropriate joint training of staff and parent carers will be offered.

## Key Performance Indicators

100% of children and young people identified as requiring Specialist Child Assessment Centre assessment will have an identified key worker by 2010.

100% of children and young people using SCAC will have an integrated care plan including SEN code of practice assessment where required by 2010.

100% of children using SCAC will have a transition plan to school by 2009.

All children and young people with special needs aged 0-5 are identified on the Joint Agency Record where agreed with parent / Carers.

The service will meet national and local targets for waiting times and provision of services by 2010.

All Specialist Child Assessment Centres will provide specialist services as described in the Service Specification by 2010.

All Devon maintained special schools will be supported through the core offer, which will include ability to support education assessment in SCAC.

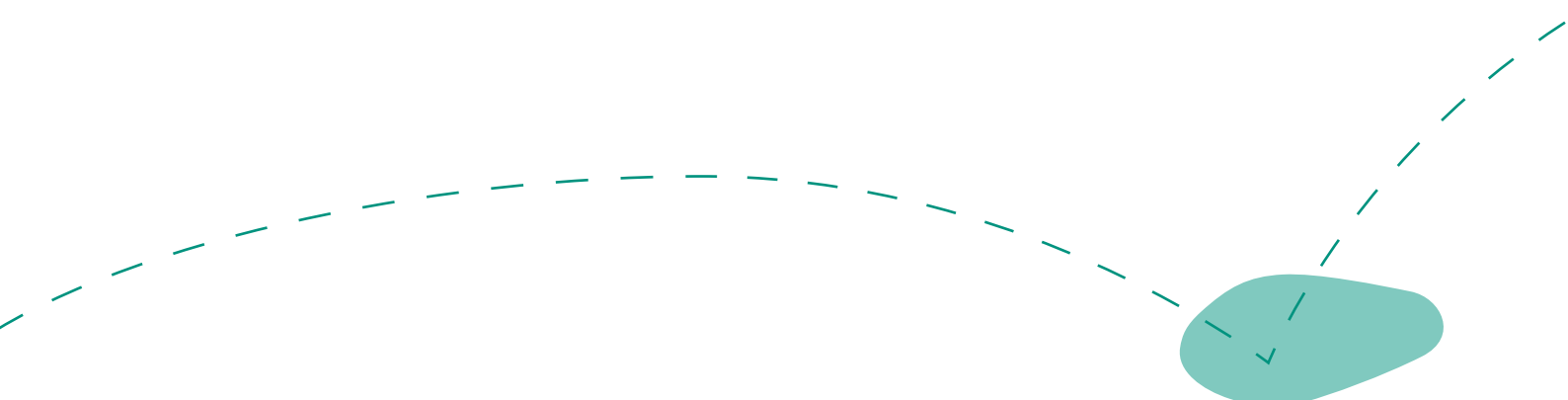
All children with complex special needs aged 0-5 will be supported through the complex child assessment pathway plan to be able to access mainstream services where appropriate. From a baseline to be established this year we will monitor the percentage of children and young people supported in transition to mainstream school settings and set targets for years 2 and 3.

Children with special needs aged 0-5 receive a seamless child centred multi-agency service from point of referral through identification and assessment to delivery of support. Evidence from Parent Carer questionnaires and Parent Carer Forums.

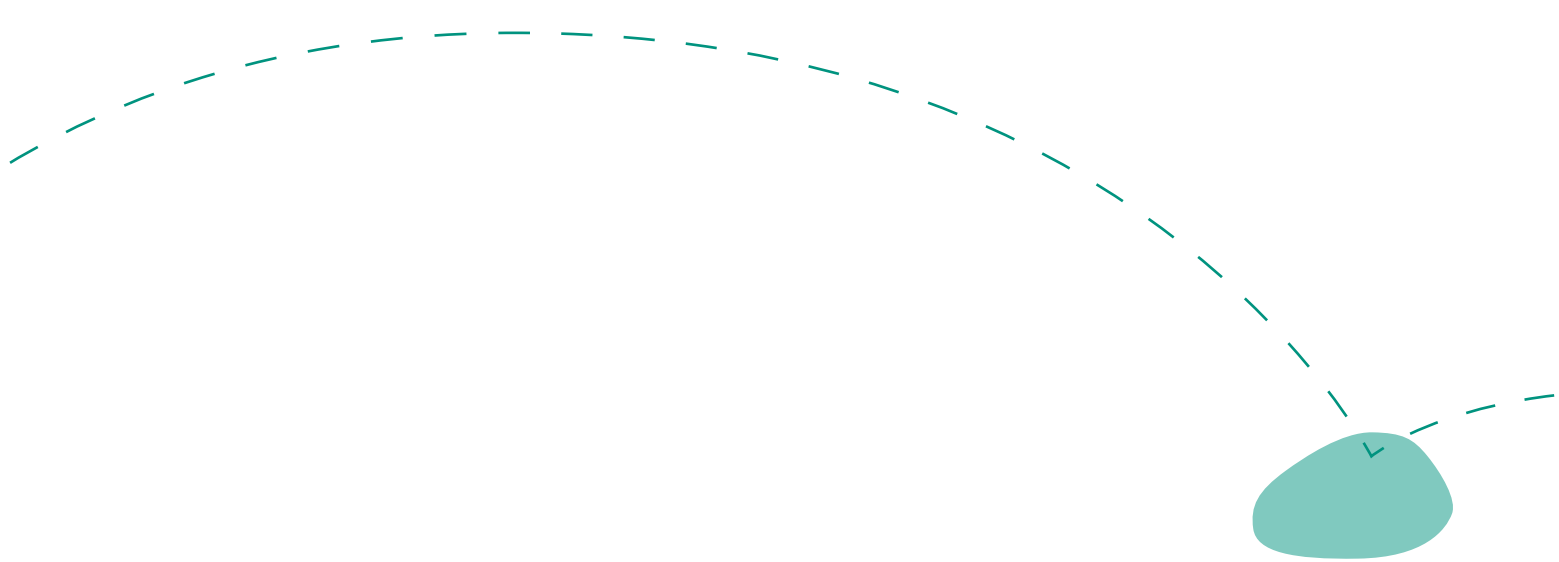
Children with special needs age 0-5 have access to high quality health care in their communities with links to SCAC where required to support community inclusion. Quantitative evidence of development of assessment links and practice with Locality Children's Centres.

Devon Local safeguarding children board will have Strategies and Protocols to ensure that disabled children are safeguarded from all forms of abuse and neglect and that Safeguarding practice is embedded within all areas of Early Years special needs service provision. Evidence will be monitored within provider services that Guidance and Effective Practice in all agencies is fully implemented on a yearly basis.

Notes



Notes



To comment on this document or for more copies contact  
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