

Early Years SEND Team: New Ways of Working

The Early Years SEND Team recognises the increasing pressures on schools as we support growing numbers of children with SEND and increasingly complex needs. In response, we are evolving our service offer to provide more collaborative, responsive and practical support that strengthens inclusive practice, early identification and intervention, and improves outcomes for children.

This autumn, we are introducing **Early Years SEND Planning Meetings**, arranged and facilitated by your link Early Years Specialist Advisory Teacher or Inclusion Advisor. These meetings will bring together school leaders, SENCos and EYFS practitioners to:

- Review EYFS SEND cohort needs and current provision.
- Identify priorities and agree practical next steps.
- Strengthen inclusive practice and workforce confidence.
- Discuss emerging concerns and children requiring the highest levels of support.
- Plan any follow-up support required.

The meetings will focus on supporting settings strategically while continuing to provide opportunities to discuss individual children where this is needed to inform planning and decision-making. It is important to note that this offer is in addition to existing support available via the wider Early Years SEND Team, such as Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Specialists and Specialist Development Centre Outreach.

To focus capacity on delivering responsive and practical follow up support, the EYs Specialist Advisory Teachers will no longer produce written advice reports for individual children. Advice and support will be recorded through co-produced action plans and APDR records instead. These records can be used to evidence professional involvement for funding applications and statutory processes where required.

We recognise that autumn term meetings take place when new children are settling into school and information about cohorts is still emerging. Schools should therefore provide the information they have available, and discussions will take account of each setting's individual context.

Please note: Parental consent via a Service Request Form will continue to be required for discussions about named individual children and for the allocation of Early Years SEND Targeted Funding. For further information and Request forms please see web links below.