

THE EARLY YEARS PANEL - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

What is the Early Years Panel and who is it for?

The Early Years Panel is a group of professionals from health, early education and social care who work with children and families in Southampton. The Panel has oversight of all early years children with special educational needs and disabilities and / or with complex health needs, to ensure that their needs are being addressed appropriately to ensure the best outcomes for children and their families.

Who is on the Panel?

The membership of the Panel includes the following representation:

- Health Visitors
- Paediatricians
- Therapists
- SEND managers
- Educational Psychologists
- Early Years settings
- Early Years Advisory Teachers
- Portage Teachers
- Early Help and Social Care
- Jigsaw
- Schools
- 0 – 19 Service

What does it do?

The Panel ensures that Health Authorities and others notify the Local Authority of all children who have or may have special educational needs and disabilities. This is a statutory requirement under the Education Act 1996.

The Panel ensures that each child's needs are identified early with appropriate provision put in place and referrals are made to other professionals or services if required.

The Panel supports professionals where complex multi-agency discussion and planning is required.

The Panel allocates funding to early years settings and makes recommendations to the Multi-Agency Resource Panel (MARP) where high cost packages of care are required.

www.southampton.gov.uk/0-25sendservice

The Panel supports the placement of children in specialist nursery settings and schools.

The Panel will inform the Southampton City Council register of disabilities as required by the Children Act 1989.

The Panel considers requests for Education, Health and Care assessments.

The Panel supports the transition of children into school.

How often does it meet?

The Panel meets weekly during term time.

Will I be informed when my child is being discussed at the Early Years Panel?

Notification to the Panel will only be made with your consent. That consent will enable the Panel to discuss your child's needs to ensure that he / she is receiving all the support that he / she needs and may include a recommendation for referral onto other services. If your child is referred on, the receiving service will contact you to ensure you wish for your child to be seen. Consideration for funding or placements will only be made with your consent.

Can I contact the Panel?

You may at some point be contacted by a member of the Panel to get your feedback on how well services are meeting your child's needs and your experience of how well services are working together.

If at any time you wish to speak to someone about the working of the Panel you may contact us via email at 0-25service@southampton.gov.uk

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