

All those working with children with special educational needs and disabilities agree that the earlier children get the support they need the better the outcomes for the family.

When parents have been told that their child has a special educational need or disability they usually want to know what might happen next or where they might get some help for their child.

This sheet outlines the range of services that parents of children with special educational needs families may come into contact with in Sheffield.

All services working with young children understand the need to work closely together to ensure services to families are well coordinated.

This information may help you discuss your child's needs with the team or professional you are in contact with.

**Paediatricians** are doctors who specialise in children's health conditions. They provide developmental assessments, support and advice on medical conditions. Some paediatricians are based at Ryegate and others in the community. Referrals are usually made through GPs.

**Speech and Language Therapists** specialise in the development of speech, language or communication and also associated eating and swallowing difficulties. Sometimes Speech and Language Therapists will see children in a clinic setting but they will also visit them in nurseries and sometimes at home.

**Occupational Therapists** help with the difficulties that young children have in doing everyday activities. They may for example advise on the best ways to sit or to stand to help the child to play and the best ways to encourage and practice different movements and hand skills. They also help children who have difficulty with hand-eye co-ordination or fine motor skills such as holding a spoon and feeding themselves.

**Physiotherapists** specialise in physical and motor development. They work with you to develop programmes to help your child's movement and co-ordination. This might include helping your child to control their head, sit independently, crawl or walk.

**For Information about other health services and clinic contact details phone SIGN Information on 0114 266 9476.**

**Specialist Support Services** - These services provide support and advice to parents and nurseries about children's play and development. Some specialise in particular aspects of disability. Specialist support services in Sheffield for early years are:

- Early Years Inclusion team which includes the Portage Home Visiting Service and the ICAN Early Years Language Centre
- Autism Service
- Service for children with Hearing Impairment
- Service for children with Visual Impairment

**The Early Years Inclusion Team** includes teachers and inclusion assistants covering different areas of Sheffield. They work with young children with special educational needs at home and support nurseries, playgroups and primary school reception classes to include children with SEN and disabilities. They give support and advice on children's play and development and work closely with health professionals to provide coordinated programmes. The Early Years Inclusion team works in collaboration with Pre-School learning Alliance who provide a number of Inclusion Assistants. Parents can refer direct to the Early years Inclusion team by contacting them on **0114 239 8336** or if they prefer can ask a professional to refer on their behalf.

**The Portage Service** is a city-wide service that visits very young children in the home and works in partnership with parents to develop children's play, learning, physical skills and communication. Referrals can be made by requesting a referral form from the Service at Children's Specialist services on **0114 239 8336**.

**ICAN Early Years Language Centre** is a specialist city-wide service for children with language impairment. The Service is run jointly by the Children and Young People's Directorate and the Health Service. It is also part of the Early Years Inclusion Team. It gives short-term intensive support for children with a specific language impairment and provides an outreach service to early year's settings to offer support and advice to nursery staff on developing activities to promote language and communication. Children are referred by speech and language therapists or inclusion teachers. The service can be contacted on **0114 239 8336**.

**The Specialist Autism Team** is a city-wide service working with children who are on the Autistic Spectrum and have complex communication difficulties, at both pre-school and school age. The team includes teachers who work in the home, in the specialist playgroup at Ryegate, and in mainstream nurseries, playgroups and schools. Children are usually referred to the team by other professionals working with the family. The service can be contacted on **0114 239 8336**

**The Service for Children with a Hearing Impairment** is a city-wide service. The service works closely with the Centre for Speech and Hearing at Sheffield Children's Hospital and offers support to families from the time of diagnosis to understand the impact of their child's hearing loss and help them to develop strategies to encourage communication skills. The service works with other agencies to support pre-schools, nurseries and schools to manage the learning of hearing impaired children. The service can be contacted on **0114 239 8336**.

This Factsheet is available in other formats upon request, please call 0114 266 9476 for more details.

© Sheffield Information Link 2009. May not be reproduced without permission. We try to ensure the accuracy of information in this factsheet but this cannot be guaranteed.

**The Service for Children with a Visual Impairment** is a city-wide service which offers support to parents to help them understand their child's visual difficulties and introduce activities and experiences to help play and learning. They also offer training and support to staff in pre-schools, nurseries and schools to include children with visual impairment. Anyone can refer children with visual impairment to the service. They can be contacted on 0114 **239 8336**.

**The Educational Psychology Service** is based at the Bannerdale Centre. The team works with children of all ages supporting learning, behaviour and emotional well being. The team offers advice to parents, pre-schools, nurseries, mainstream schools and special schools. They can be contacted on **0114 250 6800**.

### **Children's Centres**

Children's Centres are a new way of supporting families with children under five. They are designed to offer a range of services such as childcare, early education, health services, help with finding jobs and training, and drop in sessions and activities for parents and children **all in one place**. They are being designed to offer services to all families and children who live in their area including children with disabilities. For information about your nearest Children's Centre contact Early Years Education and Childcare Service on **0114 281 1881**.

**Ryegate** –is part of the Sheffield's Children's NHS Trust. The Ryegate is a multi-disciplinary assessment centre. The Ryegate team is composed of paediatricians, clinical psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, Social worker, nursery nurses.

Children are referred to the Ryegate by a health professional. Children can be referred through their GPs for a multi-disciplinary assessment. This is a two day assessment where children are seen by a number of health professionals from the Ryegate team to cover all aspects of their development.

The Ryegate main reception number is **271 7651**.

### **Specialist groups at Ryegate**

A number of specialist groups are run at Ryegate. Children are usually referred to these specialist groups by professionals working with them.

These specialist groups include:

- Motor groups which support children's physical development
- Sensory groups for children with complex disabilities
- Footsteps, a specialist playgroup for young children with Autism
- Portage playgroup which offers pre school children with special educational needs and disabilities opportunities to lay with other children in a supported environment. Parents attend this playgroup and are supported by portage staff and have the opportunity to meet with other parents.

### **SEN Assessment and Placement Service**

This service is based in the Education Directorate in Howden House, Union Street. The section manages the procedure of Statutory Assessment, which is the name given to the process of assessing a child for special education need provision. This process may result in a child with severe or complex needs being given a Statement. A statement is a document which outlines the child's special needs and the help required to meet those needs.

The SEN assessment and placement service can be contacted for information about the process of formal assessment, for the progress of an assessment, and information about the statement and the resources specified. They can be contacted on **0114 273 5639**.

### **Parent Partnership Service**

The Parent Partnership Service is a specialist service offering impartial information advice and support to parents and carers of children with special educational needs. Parent Partnership can help parents understand and prepare for the SEN process and help them communicate with schools and the local authority. Parent Partnership can be contacted on **0114 264 0033**.

### **SENCOs**

All nurseries and pre-schools have a special educational needs coordinator (SENCO). The SENCO has the responsibility to work with staff in the nursery to help them identify children's additional needs and prepare individual programmes to help those needs. They also play a key role in coordinating services working with an individual child or family. Parents can ask to speak to the SENCO if they have any concerns.

### **Sheffield Care Pathways Service**

This service is designed to coordinate support to parents of children under three with complex developmental needs, who will be seen by a number of professionals. The aim is to help coordinate the team of people working with the child to work to a single plan with the parent and child's needs at the centre. Also to identify a key worker to coordinate support to the family. Referral can be made by anyone working with the family with the family in consultation with the family. A referral form can be requested from the project workers on **0114 226 0605**.

### **SIGN**

This is a specialist information service for parents of children with disabilities, health impairments and special needs and the professionals who work with them. It is run by the Children's Information Service, funded by the Children and Young People's Directorate and Health and is based at the Ryegate Children's Centre. It provides a range of information on services and disabilities. It also has information about where parents can access leisure activities and childcare. SIGN can be contacted on **0114 266 9476**.

### **Index**

The Sheffield Index is the Child Disability Register for Sheffield. Parents can register any child between the ages of 0 to 19 who live in Sheffield and have any disability, special need or life altering medical condition. Children are not automatically registered on the Index parents / carers need to enrol their child. Enrolment forms are available from the INDEX on 0114 **271 7626**. Parents / carers whose children are registered on the INDEX automatically receive the What's Going On termly newsletter.

### **Children with Disabilities Team**

The Social Care Children with Disabilities Service has teams of Social Workers who support children with disabilities and complex health needs and their families. Social workers are based at the following locations:

Ryegate Children's Centre: 0114 **271 7633**

Sheffield Children Hospital: 0114 **226 7310**

Redvers House (over 5's): 0114 **273 5368**

This Factsheet is available in other formats upon request, please call 0114 266 9476 for more details.

© Sheffield Information Link 2009. May not be reproduced without permission. We try to ensure the accuracy of information in this factsheet but this cannot be guaranteed.

Children and families access Social Work support following an assessment of their needs using the Common Assessment Framework. They also organise a “short-breaks” family support service for children with disabilities and their families, where children can be accommodated with a family or in a respite unit. The family placement service can be contacted on 0114 **273 4601**.

## **Home Start**

Home Start is a charity supporting families who have at least one child under the age of 5, offering friendship and practical support to parents with young children who are going through a stressful or difficult time. Parents can contact the Home start service direct on 0114 **278 8377** or can ask a professional to contact on their behalf.

## **Early Support Programme**

Also available to parents is the “**Early support family pack**” which has been produced by the national Early Support Programme to support parents of children aged 0-5 who have special needs.

The Early Support Programme also publishes a series of booklets on particular conditions or disabilities. These are:

- Autism
- Downs Syndrome
- Hearing Impairment
- Visual Impairment
- Learning Disabilities
- Rare Conditions
- Speech & Language difficulties
- Cerebral Palsy
- When your child has no diagnosis

The Early support programme also produces background national Information covering Financial Help, Childcare, Education, Health services, Social services and a family file to help collate information.

**Early Support materials are available from SIGN. Contact: 0114 266 9476.**