

# Early Years SEND Offer

## September 2020 – August 2021

"Supporting settings to support children with special educational needs."

In relation to COVID-19 some adjustments and changes have been made to the delivery of the SEND offer for Early Years



Information for settings

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## Specialist Nursery Provision

Specialist Teachers or Portage Practitioners can refer children for an intervention at a Specialist Nursery via the Multi Agency Planning meeting (MAP).

More information about the nurseries can be found on KELSI:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/senif/information-for-settings>

## Portage

Since March 2020 Portage Practitioners have been making contact with families via various social media platforms. This has proved to be incredibly successful.

Until it is safe to return to family homes and offer group sessions the team will continue to operate in this way.

Portage will continue to be involved at points of transition for families as this is a real strength. Setting practitioners, families and Specialist Teachers will meet in the home, at a group session or virtually, depending on the needs of the family, child and the current Government Advice, to plan an effective transition into the setting. Early years providers will have a responsibility to raise the needs of children who have had Portage at EY LIFT meetings, in advance, so that their provision meets the needs of the child when they start.

Portage Practitioners will continue to support the transition into the setting, once the child has settled in, with a follow up phone call.

### Referrals to Portage and or Children's Care Co-ordination Team

Referral forms can be found for each service on the Kelsi website under SEN. The Portage referral form is now a digital online form and can also be found on the Local Offer pages for early years.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/kent-portage>



## Best Practice Guidance

KCC, now via The Education People provides a Best Practice Guidance document and associated training to support settings with practical examples of universal and targeted ideas to ensure that they are compliant with all equality legislation and are meeting the needs of all children in their settings.

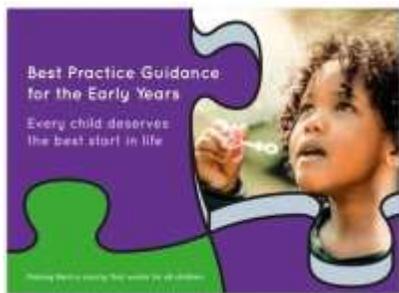
The accompanying audit tools, further support early years practitioners to plan and implement targeted strategies for the child. These have been successful in many settings where they have been used as working documents that capture the totality of progress and interventions implemented for children with SEND. They have been used effectively to inform discussions with parents, other professionals and where required, have been used as evidence for ongoing referrals.

The new document will offer examples of how strategies can be implemented in settings.

A parent leaflet will be available for you to share with your families and can be found on The Local Offer.

Each setting and childminder has received one revised document, with additional copies available at a cost.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/early-years/equality-and-inclusion/best-practice-guidance-for-the-early-years>



- ◆ give virtual support to settings on a regular weekly basis, including telephone calls, virtual meetings, preparing / emailing resources on a bespoke basis.
- ◆ prepare Record of Interventions / Record of Contacts; these will be shared with settings weekly.
- ◆ be able to support settings, where there is capacity, if a child doesn't have SENIF but has been allocated to a Specialist Teacher, once agreed at MAP.
- ◆ liaise with schools where requested to do so by a specialist teacher where previous interventions have taken place. 2 virtual support conversations can be offered.
- ◆ prepare and create bite sized training to share with settings to illustrate advice and recommendations.

### Monitoring & Support Officers will \_ ..

- ◆ contact settings as normal to arrange a time to call to carry out a telephone or MS Teams monitoring appointment.
- ◆ create and deliver bite sized training.
- ◆ support settings with advice regarding the completion of the SENIF Implementation Plan.

The SENIF Hotline will continue to operate during term time from 9.00am – 10.00am.

### SENIF Request Form

We recently delivered a webinar about the changes to the SENIF Request form and this will be available on Kelsi

### SENIF Review Form

From September 2020 we will not be asking you to complete a SENIF Review Form.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/senif>

## Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

### The SENIF Offer 2020 2021

#### Term 1

Due to the current pandemic and government guidelines the SENIF offer will continue to be delivered differently and constantly reviewed. We will continue to monitor how we can support settings and we will notify you of any changes.

#### SEN Inclusion Officers will \_ \_

- ◆ consider SENIF requests in the same way but on the digital referral form to be found on Kelsi for new requests for SENIF that are received *prior to term 2* where settings are unable to complete a reviewed Personalised Plan (as children have been absent/the setting has been closed); these will be considered in the normal way but with the current personalised plan.
- ◆ notify settings if any evidence is missing to avoid delays.
- ◆ chair MAP meetings virtually via Microsoft Teams.
- ◆ notify SENIF Practitioner Area Leads of children to be allocated.

#### SENIF Practitioners will \_

- ◆ attend virtual LIFT meetings.
- ◆ liaise with EY Specialist Teachers.
- ◆ contribute to transition meetings when requested to do so by the specialist teacher.
- ◆ be able to participate in Zoom/MS Teams meetings with STLS & settings.
- ◆ prepare / email resources for settings where appropriate to do so.
- ◆ liaise with Portage Practitioners, where children are known to the service.

## Early Years and Childcare Service Support

The Education People's Early Years and Childcare Equality and Inclusion Team continues to be funded by KCC as part of the Early Years SEND offer.

These visits can take place, well in advance of any potential referral, to support children who are at risk of delay or who may have SEND and are designed to ensure that your universal offer meets the needs of all children.

This support is currently offered virtually, in line with Government advice and can be requested in the same way as for setting visits.

<https://www.theeducationpeople.org/products/early-years-child-care/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send-equality-and-inclusion-advisor-support-visit/>

## Training

- ◆ Core Early Years training continues to be provided by the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service (STLS) this could be virtually or face to face according to local district decisions.
- ◆ A wide range of training is provided by The Education People via Threads of Success, including Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) and Prime Importance of Communication & Language training. This is a blended offer of face to face, virtual and e-learning training.

<https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/professional-development/>

### EY LIFT Paperwork

We are working on creating a new digital referral form but the current one, on Kelsi, can be used in the meantime; there will still be an expectation that accompanying evidence is supplied. This can take the form of a targeted or personalised plan, Best Practice Guidance Audit Tools or whatever is specified by your district.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/local-inclusion-forum-teams>

LIFT meetings will continue to be held in each district from September but the format of these will differ from district to district. You will be informed of how your meetings will take place.



The SEN Support Allowance will continue to be paid in the academic year 2020/2021. We have been unable to monitor how this has been used and whether attendance at LIFT meetings has increased, due to COVID-19. However we will evaluate the impact of this allowance over this academic year.

Whilst we would encourage settings to attend every EY LIFT meeting there is an expectation that this additional money will be used towards enabling staff to attend **at least two EY LIFT Meetings** and **a minimum of one SENCo Forum** in an academic year. It can also be used towards enabling staff to attend meetings with Equality and Inclusion Advisers, SENIF Practitioners, SENIF Monitoring Officers, Specialist Teachers and other multi agency colleagues.

The termly SEN Support Allowance, for 2020 – 2021, is £100 (a total of £300) and will be paid directly to group Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) settings registered with KCC, to deliver free early education entitlements. This will be paid at the beginning of terms 1, 3 and 5. It is your responsibility to ring fence this money and use for the purpose that this has been given. We appreciate that this will not fully fund the additional costs incurred but we hope it will go some way towards enabling attendance at meetings etc.