SEN Inclusion Fund

Providing the right support for the right children at the right time

# EARLY YEARS PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE GROUP (EY PRG)

## Information for families and early years providers

(childminders, nurseries & pre-schools)





Kent County Council

# What are the Early Years Professional Resource Groups?

Children with complex needs will often have many professionals involved with their care and their education journey. The Early Years Professional Resource Group (EY PRG) ensures that Early Years providers, children and their families, have access to a targeted offer of support to meet their needs during their time in Early Years.

# What is the process?

Requests can be made by Early Years Providers. Requests should be completed when Providers feel they need additional support beyond what has already been implemented and evidenced, which has had minimal impact on the child's development and progress. This is a continuous process; there are no deadlines for submission of paperwork

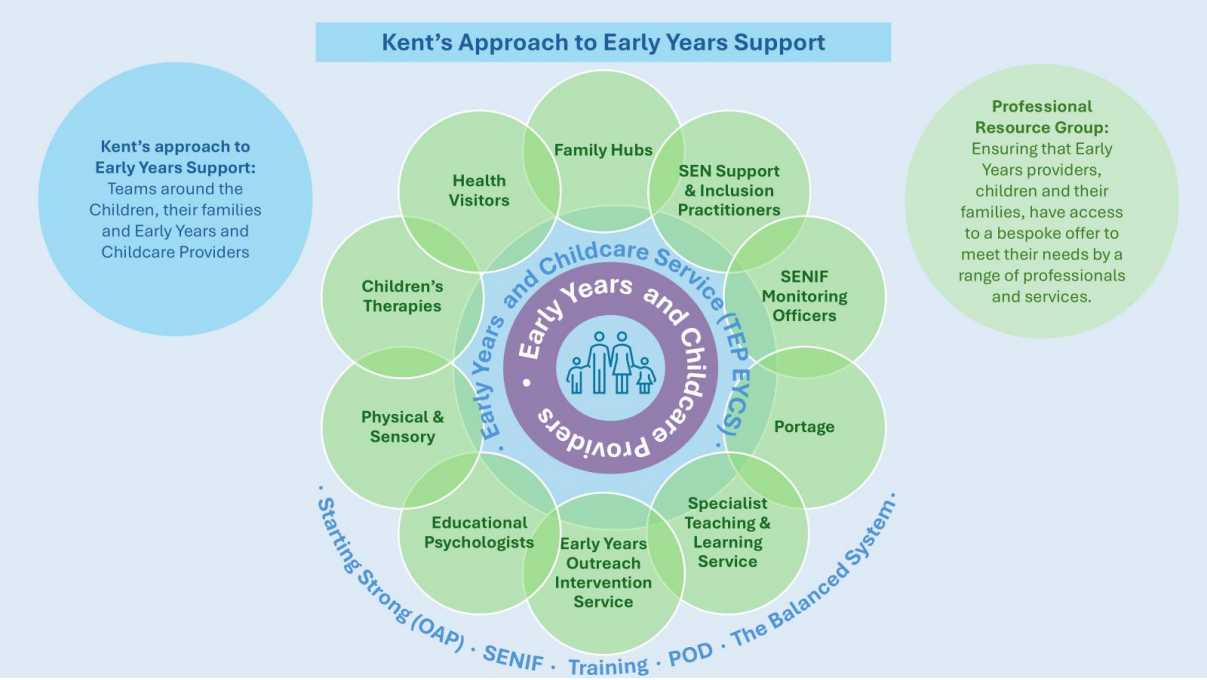
The requests are considered by a multiagency group of professionals at the EY PRG. These groups meet once a term (6 times per year) in each of the 12 districts of Kent.

Where multiple children from the same provider are submitted within the same term and require similar support, the group may consider whether a cohort-based intervention would be a more appropriate outcome. This will be determined by factors such as attendance patterns and the similarity of the support needs identified.

Outcomes of the meeting will be shared with Early Years Providers shortly after the meeting. This will be by email. The nominated service will then make initial contact to discuss more specific arrangements of the intervention.



# Kent's Approach to Early Years Support




## Expectations:

There is an expectation that, for the vast majority of cases, **before** making an EY PRG Request:

- that there is robust evidence of how Starting Strong has been implemented within the provision to evidence impact for all children and that

- the child the provision is considering making a request to EY PRG for has had time to settle, and the provider has implemented, embedded and reviewed a Support Plan (DOCX, 193.1 KB) (with at least one review cycle) evidencing limited impact and progress



# The aim of the meeting:

The aim of the meeting is to:

- be confident that Early Years Provisions have accessed training and implemented advice and strategies before requests are brought to the meeting.
- plan educational support, for children attending Early Years Provisions from professionals, at different points, in a child's education journey.
- make decisions about the most appropriate interventions and support that can be offered and when; depending on capacity, interventions may not be able to start straight away but waiting time should be minimal, waiting no longer than six weeks (excluding half terms and holidays) for interventions to start, wherever possible.
- ensure that all professional interventions will be time limited but not exceeding a maximum of two terms, wherever possible.
- ensure that following interventions, Early Years Provisions have embedded the advice and strategies provided, before any further support is considered.

Outcomes will be shared with Early Years Providers shortly after the meeting. This will be by email. The nominated service will then make initial contact to discuss more specific arrangements of the intervention. If any outcomes from the meeting suggest signposting the family to access additional support this will be shared with the Early Years Provider who can pass this along to the family.



# Exceptional Discussions:

Arrangements are in place for children to be considered outside of the termly district EY PRG meetings in certain instances, if the request for support is deemed urgent and cannot wait until the next meeting which will be highlighted through the triaging process after the request has been made. It will be considered via an exceptional discussion meeting which takes place weekly and Providers will be informed if your request is being considered via this meeting.

# Possible Meeting Outcomes

Outcomes are intended to be targeted in response to children's needs. Time limited support may be provided by **one** of the following services:

## SEND Support and Inclusion Practitioner (SEND SIP)

SEND SIPs deliver targeted support for children with specific needs, offering advice, mentoring, and modelling of effective strategies to Early Years Practitioners and Childminders to build confidence and capacity.

SEND SIPs also host Early Years SEND Surgeries which provide a dedicated opportunity for Early Years providers to access SEND advice and guidance and discuss concerns with Early Years SEND Professionals.



# Early Years Outreach Intervention Service

EY Outreach service supports pre-school children aged 3 and over with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Practitioners work with early years providers, using mentoring, modelling and guidance, helping them to build the skills and confidence to support children with SEND. This is delivered within Early Years Mainstream provisions

# Portage

Portage can offer support with transition and when a child has not been accessing their Early Education Entitlement due to the complexity of their condition/diagnosis. If a childcare placement is at risk of breaking down, or has already broken down, Portage can support both the provider and the family to find solutions.

# SENIF Monitoring Officer

A SENIF Monitoring Officer may become involved in a team around the provision.



# Early Years Specialist Teaching & Learning Service (STLS)

Specialist Teachers may be requested to support early years provisions by delivering specialist trauma informed training if appropriate to do so.

# Families & Providers may be signposted to:

# Children's Therapies

Children's Therapies Team and Care Coordination Team support children and their families who need specialist help in different areas through packages such as:

- Talking Walk In (TIWI)
- Little Talkers
- Communication Tree



## Kent Educational Psychology

Kent Educational Psychologists offer support to families through their Parent Consultation Line. In addition, at various points throughout the year, they provide support to early years providers through their JASPER programme.

## Health Visiting Service

The Health Visiting Service supports families with children under five-years-old by offering advice and guidance around:

- Sleep
- Toileting
- Behaviour
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Healthy Weight & Nutrition
- Integrated Review at Two
- Let's Chat Text Service



# Family Hubs

Kent Family Hubs offer advice support and services to families with group and packages such as:

- SEND Stay & Play Groups
- Little Talkers
- Communication Tree
- Making It Real
- Focussed Support
- District Conversations

# What will the support look like?

Time limited support targeted to meet children's needs is delivered within the EY Provision with regular contact throughout the duration. Support is delivered alongside key staff members from the EY Provision to ensure that once it has ended the staff are confident to continue to embed the advice and strategies.

Interventions will usually consist of at least 6 sessions before review but may end earlier where appropriate following professional judgement. Occasionally interventions may extend beyond six sessions but should not exceed 12 weeks.

In some cases, a service may initially meet with a child but, after careful assessment, decide that their support is not the most appropriate at that time. The early years provider will be informed and given guidance on the next steps or suggestions for alternative support options.



# Additional information for families and Early Years Providers:

Early Years Professional Resource Group (PRG) - KELSI

Supporting Information for Parents and Providers - KELSI

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) - Kent County Council

