

Early Help SEND Toolkit



Start using the tool!

Purpose & Context

How to use this tool

Professionals area resources

Learning



Home &
Money



Health



Community
& Friends



0-5 Years



Preparing for
Adulthood





- The purpose of this practical tool is to **help early help professionals navigate SEND information and support**, and subsequently strengthen SEND support within universal services and targeted services. It has been co-produced with professionals from a range of services across health, education and social care, together with parent /carer representatives from HPCI.
- The Hertfordshire **Local Offer lets parents and young people know what SEND services are available in Hertfordshire**, and who can access them, at each key stage of a child's development. It is designed for and with families with children with SEND.
- The **Local Offer enables parents and carers to build up their own network of SEND support for their child and family**. As the needs of the child or young person changes when they grow and develop, the support network around them may need to change as well. For example whether it's an advocate for parents, or for the young adult as they transition to adult services, support is available within universal and targeted services, and information to access it can often be found on the Local Offer.
- Each young person is unique and their needs may be complex and varied. The **tool promotes multi-agency working and enablement** to achieve the best outcome for a child or young person with a SEND need. The Families First Delivery Model, with the Team Around the Family (TAF) at the heart, is pivotal to bringing a range of services together, including those from health, education and social care, to enable a child/person centred approach to the needs of early help families with SEND needs.
- Further information about SEND support for professionals can be found on the [Families First Portal Professionals Resource Area](#) which includes pathways into education and health, and social care.
- Keep up to date and share stories with us about SEND information and support in Hertfordshire via [HAND Facebook](#), [@sendherts](#) [Twitter](#) and [SEND News](#)

How to use the tool



Answers to questions you may have are categorised under the titles outlined below.

Learning



Home & Money



Health



Community & Friends



0-5 Years



Preparing for Adulthood



Each category has two pages of content with hyperlinks

Part A:



Key information: what I need to know about the category



Links to SENDIASS



Links to support groups



Link to additional SEND resources for early help professionals

Part B:



Find the answers to commonly asked questions



Suggested links to additional category specific information or services



Use this button to navigate back to the tool's home page



Key Information:

- If a parent/ carer has concerns and they think their child may need additional support, they should approach the school/Early Years setting in the first instance. Ask to speak to their SENCO (Special Education Needs Co-ordinator) or Head Teacher for advice on next steps.
- The **Local Offer webpages** including information on:
 - [Getting Support in Education](#)
 - [SEN support](#)
 - [Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments and Plans](#), including what evidence is required from all professionals working with the family
 - [Delivering Special Provision Locally \(DSPLs\)](#) - 9 DSPL areas which support schools and families
 - [Special Schools in Hertfordshire](#)
 - [School transport](#)
- **The Grid** also has lots of great information including:
 - Overview of [Integrated Services for Learning](#), a multi-disciplinary service within Children's Services, working in four area teams, helping schools, settings and families to improve outcomes for children and young people with additional and SEND.
 - The Herts for Learning [SEND Toolkit](#) which explains the role of education and sets out the 'Graduated Response' and how the school will share the process with the parent, and what to expect to happen following a request for an EHCP assessment.
- There is legislation on the government website around the [SEND code of Practice \(2015\)](#) which includes an overview of the four broad areas of SEND need on p. 97

Learning



Support groups
on the Local Offer



Other Early Help
SEND Resources

Find answers to families' commonly asked questions & useful links for further *Learning* information



Questions parents may have, and where to direct them on the Local Offer or external sites



- [I think my child may have additional needs, where can I go for help?](#)
- [How do I get my child assessed for SEN?](#)
- [I'm not happy with the support my child is receiving, what can I do?](#)
- [What is an EHCP and does my child need one?](#)
- [What help can we get while we wait for a diagnosis/for the EHCP to be considered?](#)
- [We're about to apply for a primary / secondary school / college, what are our options?](#)
- [What can I do to help my child prepare for a new school or new service?](#)
- [My child's EHCP review is overdue, what can we do?](#)
- [What is a special school and would it be best for my child?](#)
- [We need help getting my child to school / college . . .](#)
- [My child has been excluded / is on a part-time timetable, what does this mean?](#)
- [My child refuses to go to school, how can I help him/her?](#)



Useful Links:

- [Hertfordshire ARC](#)
- [Hertfordshire County Council Directory of Services](#)
- [Herts Parent Carer Involvement](#)
- [Integrated Services for Learning](#)
- [POhWER Advocacy & Advice](#)
- [SENDIASS](#)
- [SEND Code of Practice \(2015\)](#)
- [Specialist Adolescent Services Hertfordshire \(SASH\)](#)
- [Support Groups](#)





Key Information:

- Key information can be found on the **Local Offer** website, **Hertfordshire County Council** website and the **NHS** website:
 - [HAND card](#), which families can apply for to jump queues and get discounted entry in some leisure facilities.
 - [Courses and activities](#) in the local area
 - Adapted [equipment](#) for the home, which [Occupational Therapy](#) service can advise on
 - [Home Care Support](#) for children, young people, and their families as well as the types of additional support that can be provided in the home environment.
 - Respite, including [Short Breaks Local Offer](#) for children and young people available within the community without a 0-25 assessment as well as [residential and shared care](#).
 - How to request a [Carers Assessment](#) & support for [Young Carers](#) in the local area
 - [Financial information & advice](#) & link to the [Money Advice Unit](#) which provides advice on Welfare Benefits, Direct Payments, Carers Allowance, Personal Independence Payments, mobility and living allowance, Universal Credits and Child Tax Credits.
- Keep up to date with SEND information and support in Hertfordshire via HAND Facebook, SEND Twitter and [SEND News](#)



Support groups
on the Local Offer



Other Early Help
SEND Resources

Find answers to families' commonly asked questions & useful links for further *Home & Money* information



Questions parents may have, and where to direct them on the Local Offer or external sites



- [I think my child may have additional needs, where can I go for help?](#)
- [We need some help adapting our home, who can help us with this?](#)
- [I'm worried about money. . .](#)
- [My relationship with my partner is being affected by the stress at home, what support is there for us?](#)
- [I'm worried we don't have enough time for my other children who not have SEND...](#)
- [How can I find appropriate childcare?](#)
- [My child can't weight bear and needs a wheelchair – where do we go for advice about an assessment?](#)
- [I am finding it difficult to cope with caring for my other children, where can I go for help?](#)
- [Where can I get advice about benefits?](#)

• **Useful Links:**

- [Citizens Advice](#)
- [Courses & Activities](#)
- [Hertfordshire Equipment Service](#)
- [Hertfordshire Shared Care](#)
- [Herts Parent Carer Involvement](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Money advice, benefits and support to get a job](#)
- [NHS Children's Occupational Therapy Service](#)
- [POhWER– Advocacy & Advice](#)
- [Short Breaks Local Offer](#)





Key Information:

- If a parent/ carer has concerns and they think their child may need additional health related support, they should approach their midwife, health visitor or GP in the first instance.
- There are a range of health services available to families, to meet both physical and mental health needs from emerging to specialist needs. [Children and Young People](#) section of the Local Offer has links to these services however, every child and young person is different, and their needs may be complex.
- Health professionals play a pivotal role in supporting a child or young person with their health care pathway, and it is important they are involved in the planning and support of their health, care and education needs.
- Parents/ carers may also need to be signposted to health services to maintain their own health and wellbeing needs.
- Some of the specialist services provided are listed below:
 - [Specialist dentists](#), Special Educational Needs Health Visitor, Child Development Centres (CDCs), Integrated Health Therapies ([Occupational Therapy](#), [Speech & Language](#) and [Physiotherapy](#)), Step 2, PALMS, CAMHS, Transition Nurse project, Education Support for Medical Absence (ESMA); Educational Psychologist Service, ARC.
 - Information on how to get referred for these services is available under the [services for children and young people section](#).



Support groups
on the Local Offer



Other Early Help
SEND Resources

Find answers to families' commonly asked questions & useful links for further *Health* information

Health



Questions parents may have, and where to direct them on the Local Offer.



- [I think my child may have additional needs, where can I go for help?](#)
- [I've just found out I'm expecting a baby who may have disabilities](#)
- [I'm feeling worried and confused](#)
- [How do I get my child assessed for autism / dyslexia / dyspraxia etc?](#)
- [My child is too anxious to go to school, what can we do to help them?](#)
- [My child is too unwell to go to school, what can we do to help them?](#)
- [What help / support can we get while we're waiting for a diagnosis?](#)
- [My child needs walking aids, where do go to find these?](#)
- [My child/young person has a life limiting condition and needs Continuing Health Care as well as self-care needs. How can we access support? \(for 14 years+\)](#)



Useful Links:

- [Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service \(CAMHS\)](#)
- [Community Paediatrics](#)
- [Continuing Care Team](#)
- [Health Transitional Service](#)
- [Health Visitor – Special Education Needs](#)
- [NHS – Children and Families Support](#)
- [Positive Behaviour, Autism, Learning Disability and Mental Health Service \(PALMS\)](#)
- [Services for children and young people](#)
- [Special Care Dental Service](#)
- [Special School Nursing Service](#)
- [Therapies Service](#)





Community & Friends



Key Information:

- It is important for parents/carers to take care of their own [wellbeing and get support](#) to prevent needs from escalating.
- The Local Offer includes links to finding [courses, activities and things to do within the community](#) for young people to access.
- YC Hertfordshire hosts [youth projects for young people with learning difficulties](#)
- Families may like to apply for a [HAND card](#) to jump the queues and get discounted entry in some leisure facilities.
- There are a number of [parent-led support groups](#) in Hertfordshire who provide a valuable source of information and support, particularly around request an EHCP.
- Families may want to join [Herts Parent Carer Involvement](#) which represents the views and experiences of families to improve services for children and young people with SEND in Hertfordshire.
- [SENDIASS](#) provides impartial information, advice and support about education, health and social care needs in relation to children with SEND.
- Young people can use existing [welfare benefits](#) to access community based initiatives as they move to adulthood.
- Families can keep up to date and share stories with us about SEND information and support in Hertfordshire via [HAND Facebook](#), [@sendherts Twitter](#) and [SEND News](#)
- Family Centres and Schools are also a good point of contact to start building networks of local support.



Support groups
on the Local Offer



Other Early Help
SEND Resources

Find answers to families' commonly asked questions & useful links for further *Community & Friends* information



Questions parents may have, and where to direct them on the Local Offer or external sites



- [I think my child may have additional needs, where can I go for help?](#)
- [I'm feeling like I have no friends](#)
- [I'm feeling worried and confused](#)
- [I'm worried about what the future holds for my child, what options are there?](#)
- [How do I explain my child's SEND to family and friends, so that we continue to be invited to social events?](#)
- [Where can we go for support as a family and for my other children? I feel they miss out due to my child's disability.](#)
- [Where can I get help to cope with my feelings and emotions? I feel like I'm struggling to cope.](#)
- [Where can I find out more about what's available to my child now they have left education?](#)



Useful Links:

- [Family Centres Hertfordshire](#)
- [Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database](#)
- [Herts Parent Carer Involvement](#)
- [POhWER– Advocacy & Advice](#)
- [Support Groups](#)
- [The Inclusion Project](#)





0-5 Years



Key Information:

- If you're supporting a family with a baby or young child who may need additional support, then the local [Family Centre](#) or [Early Years setting](#), (the childcare / early education provider) are good places to go to for an initial conversation.
- SEND Champions and [Health Visitors](#) work in Family Centres and if appropriate the family may benefit from support from the SEND Health Visitor.
- The vast majority of children with SEND are able to attend mainstream (Early Years) [childcare and early education provision](#).
- Some families may benefit from additional support from the [Early Years SEND Team](#) and / or the [Early Years Development Centres](#) (for children 0-3). This can be helpful if families are waiting for a diagnosis for their child/baby and they have complex health needs.
- Families may like to apply for a [HAND card](#) to jump the queues and get discounted entry in some leisure facilities
- Families can keep up to date and share stories with us about SEND information and support in Hertfordshire via [HAND Facebook](#), [@sendherts Twitter](#) and [SEND News](#)



Support groups
on the Local Offer



Other Early Help
SEND Resources

Find answers to families' commonly asked questions & useful links for further *0-5 Years* information

0-5 Years



Questions parents may have, and where to direct them on the Local Offer or external sites



- [My child's health visitor / school has suggested my child has additional needs, where can I go for help?](#)
- [I think my baby / child may have additional needs, where can I go for help?](#)
- [What help can we get while we wait for a diagnosis?](#)
- [The 0-25 Together Team have said my child is not eligible for support, where else do we go for help?](#)
- [How can I find appropriate childcare?](#)
- [What is the SEND Code of Practice?](#)



Useful Links:

- [0-5 Early Years SEND Team](#)
- [Early Years Development Centres](#)
- [Health Visitor – Special Education Needs](#)
- [POhWER– Advocacy & Advice](#)
- [SENDIASS](#)
- [Therapies](#)





Preparing for Adulthood



Key Information:

- [Preparing for Adulthood](#) is a term used to help children, young people and their families for their adult life. Conversations should start happening with families from Year 9.
- [The YC Hertfordshire LDD Team](#) includes specialist Personal Advisers, linked to schools, colleges and other learning providers, to work with young people with LDD, to help them make a smooth transition into adult life. Key to this is the 'Preparing for Adulthood' (PfA) Transition Plan for young people, which includes a section called 'All About Me', reflecting what is important to and for them as they think about what comes after school.
- [Travel training](#) could help 16-18 year olds achieve more independence.
- Parents/ carers need to be aware that if their child, young person, has an existing care package in place as they transition to adult services, they will need to be supported and [assessed at 18](#) as a Young Adult under the Care Act.
- Parents need to speak with the health professionals about transitioning to adult health care services e.g. [community learning disability nurses](#) before a young person turns 18 before being discharged from children's health care services.
- [Integrated Services for Learning](#) (ISL) also support transition to adulthood. ISL is a multi-disciplinary service within Children's Services, working in four area teams, helping schools, settings and families to improve outcomes for children and young people with additional and SEND.



Support groups
on the Local Offer



Other Early Help
SEND Resources

Find answers to families' commonly asked questions & useful links for further *Preparing for Adulthood* information



Questions parents may have and where to direct them on the Local Offer or external sites



- [I'm not happy with the support my child is receiving – what can I do?](#)
- [What is a Mental Capacity Assessment and where can I find more information?](#)
- [My teenage son / daughter has been excluded / is on a part-time time table, what does this mean?](#)
- [My child is 17 and has a care package in place. Why does he need to be assessed again by the 0-25 Together Service?](#)
- [My child will be 18 soon and they have been discharged from CAMHS / Paediatrician / SALT, where do we go for help now?](#)
- [My teenager wants to meet other young people and make friends. Where can they go locally?](#)
- [Where can my teenager get support with travel training?](#)
- [My son/daughter starts college in September for 3 days a week – what can they do on the other days?](#)
- [My child is 16 and they are on a Child in Need \(CiN\) Plan, we receive Direct Payments. What will happen when they reach 18?](#)
- [Where can I find more information to support my child for when they move to adult services?](#)



• **Useful Links:**

- [Activities and Clubs](#)
- [The Inclusion Project](#)
- [Hertfordshire ARC](#)
- [Herts Parent Carer Involvement](#)
- [POhWER UK \(Mental Capacity Assessments\)](#)
- [Specialist Adolescent Services Hertfordshire \(SASH\)](#)
- [Work Solutions \(BBO\) Employment Skills Mentoring](#)

