3a. Graduated Response for Children 0 to 4 years – Support in Early Years Education

“All early year’s providers are required to have arrangements in place to identify and support children with SEN or disabilities and to promote equality of opportunity for children in their care. These requirements are set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EHFS)”

*Code of Practice, 5.12*

Pre-school children in North Somerset are supported by a range of qualified providers of early years education, childcare and play. These providers include Childminders, Specialist Childminders, Nurseries, Pre-Schools and Springboard Opportunity Playgroup.

All providers will have their own policies and procedures which they share with parents and carers, and which we encourage them to include in their details on North Somerset’s [Local Offer](#). Within these documents there is information on what action they will take if they consider a child may have a special educational need or a disability.

The local Graduated Response for pre-school children is based on the non-statutory Early Years Outcomes guidance and focuses on the broad areas of needs described in the SEND Code of Practice 2015. We recognise children may have needs in more than one of the areas described:

- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties
- Communication and Interaction
- Sensory and/or Physical Difficulties

It starts when a parent or the provider thinks the child has a special educational need or disability:

**Universal support in childcare settings and nurseries**

This may include:

- the parents and carers talking with the provider to establish what their concerns are and the support which may be required by the child
- the provider considers the child’s needs and potential outcomes, using the **assess, plan, do and review** process as identified in the Code of Practice, page 100
- the provider will respond with an action plan detailing what extra support maybe required. This may include an observation of the child in its early years
setting, co-ordinated by an Area SENCO form the North Somerset Early Years Team.

**Targeted and specialist support in childcare settings and nurseries**

Some children with multiple or complex needs may require a response from the Multi-Agency Information and Support in the Early Years (MAISEY) group. This is the opportunity for the services already supporting the child and family to work together to ensure the child is being considered jointly by a range of professionals who are co-ordinating support around the child’s individual needs. This may include:

- specialist support from health visitors, educational psychologists, speech and language therapists or specialist teachers, such as a teacher of the deaf or vision impaired. These specialists may visit families at home to provide practical support, answering questions and clarifying needs

- training for parents in using early learning programmes to promote play, communication and language development

- home-based programmes, such as Portage, which offer a carefully structured system to help parents support their child’s early learning and development

- Top Up Funding and other funding for extra hours of support

In some instances, when the provision is unable to meet the child’s needs the Early Years SEN Team will be contacted for further support and advice. It may be considered the child’s needs would be better met by attending Springboard or a Specialist Childminder.

When the child moves from early years to school, the family will be supported by the Inclusion Co-ordinator (INCCO), or a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). They will use a process called the Inclusion Link Programme which is available to smooth the process between pre-school into school

**Further advice and support**

Advice, support and guidance is available for parents and carers on how they can support their child with SEN and disabilities. This information can be found on the Local Offer website: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/localoffer)

North Somerset’s Early Years Graduated Response is currently being developed to align with new processes around the local Early Years SEND offer. This review will include engagement with parents and carers to ensure their thoughts and comments are considered and influence the outcome of the review. This document will be updated and will be available for circulation in September 2019, when new SEND observations will start to be recorded on North Somerset’s Early Help Module.