

Children's Services - Services for Young Children

Early Years Pre-School Advisory Groups (PAG) – Information for parents

Supporting young children with additional needs

Who Are We?

The Pre-School Advisory Group (PAG) is a team of professionals representing both health and education who meet regularly to discuss and support preschool children with additional needs.

Our Aims

- **Early Identification:** To ensure all preschool children with additional needs are identified and effectively supported as early as possible.
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Group Members who may be in attendance

- **Inclusion Team Leader:** Manages inclusive practices in district areas, including Portage and Inclusion Setting Support Officers (Chair)
 - **Special Needs Officer:** : manages and coordinates support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
 - **Community Paediatrician:** A children's doctor specialising in development and disability
 - **Educational Psychologist:** Assesses a child's learning and provides advice to support their inclusion within an educational setting
 - **Portage:** A home visiting educational service for preschool children with additional needs
 - **Inclusion Setting Support Officer:** Coordinates inclusive practices and provides support and advice to preschools and nurseries
 - **Speech and Language Therapist:** Assesses and provides advice to support children's speech and language development and communication skills
 - **Health Visitor:** Community health nurses specialising in child and family health
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Notifications to the Pre-School Advisory Group

Notifications are accepted from:

- Paediatricians
- Health Visitors
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Portage Inclusion Practitioners
- Inclusion Setting Support Officers
- Early Years Childcare Settings

Consent: You will be asked to give your consent for a notification about your child to be shared with the Pre-School Advisory Group. We will not discuss your child without your consent.

What Do We Discuss?

- **Children with Special Educational Needs and disabilities (SEND), their needs and progress:** We briefly discuss a child's special educational needs, progress, their strengths and the services currently involved.
 - **Additional Support:** We discuss what (if any) additional services or support may benefit a child
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Outcomes of the Pre-School Advisory Group

- **Referrals:** We may recommend a referral or request for support to an additional service to support your child, such as:
 - Community Paediatrician
 - Portage
 - Speech and Language Therapist
 - Specialist Teacher Advisor
 - Inclusion Setting Support Officer
 - **Current Services:** We may decide that your child is currently receiving all the appropriate services they require at this current time. The referrer will always be informed of the outcome of any discussion so that this can be shared with you – whatever the decision.
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