Cambridgeshire Early Support
Guidance & pathway July 2018

Early Support aims to improve the delivery of services for children with a disability or significant and complex additional need and their families. [cambridgeshire.gov.uk/early-support]

Children and their families who meet Early Support criteria follow Think Family processes and Early Support (ES) coordinators provide a support offer to lead professionals to aid the delivery of integrated provision to children and their families, due to the high number of professionals involved across all agencies. They support Think Family processes being delivered; coordinating referrals, assessment, planning and services and act as a source of expertise and knowledge of pathways, services, support and information across agencies for children with additional needs related to development and learning. Professionals and parent/carers can contact them.

Early Support coordinators contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email:</th>
<th><a href="mailto:early.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">early.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:CCS-TR.Early-Support@nhs.net">CCS-TR.Early-Support@nhs.net</a></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Wright</td>
<td>Tel: 01223 218062</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Bedrikovs</td>
<td>Tel: 01480 425376</td>
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NB: If you do not have an NHS or county council email, please email early.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to request a secure link to send your

Information required to refer to Cambridgeshire Early Support

**Early Help Assessment or Social Care Single Assessment which must include**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1. Medical History</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Pregnancy &amp; birth details</td>
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<tr>
<th>2. Developmental history</th>
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<td>- In all areas of development ages and stages; how the child is functioning compared to their chronological age. Please provide examples.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Are your observations consistent with those of the parents? If not what differences do they observe, please give examples</td>
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<td>- Parental Views/Priorities</td>
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<th>3. Other relevant information to include:</th>
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<td>- Impact on the parents/carers and wider family of the child’s needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Interpreter; which language</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Parenting style</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Family history</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Transport e.g. car, public transport</td>
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**Additional supporting information must be included from agencies already supporting the child or family**

- Hospital e.g. discharge/clinic letters
- EYFS developmental summary from a setting or child-minder
- Health Visitor e.g. ASQ summary sheet
- Specialist health services e.g. Paediatrician or Therapist including private therapists
- Support Plan e.g. Family Support Plan/Child in Need Plan/Safeguarding Plan, two cycles of Assess/Plan/Do
- Children’s Centre Family Worker
- Voluntary sector organisations involved
- Outcome of response by setting and health visiting team to Integrated two year review process
Early Support pathway

A. Identification

Criteria for Early Support
children from birth until the end of Year R, at Primary school, who meet all of the following:
1. Have significant and complex additional needs or disability affecting development and access to learning opportunities
2. Require considerable ongoing specialist support from across education and/or health care, as it is anticipated their needs impact on the child learning and development

Complete Early Help Assessment (EHA) with family, clearly state ‘referral to Early Support’.
Send with additional supporting information to the Early Help Hub (EHH)
early.helphub@cambridgeshire.gcsx.gov.uk

EHH completes safeguarding checks and standard hub process then sends EHA and supporting information to Early Support (ES) within 72 hours.
early.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

B. Decision Making

Multi-agency Early Support Referrals Meeting
Referrers can attend to discuss their referral

C. Actions

Decision letter sent by ES coordinator to family and copied to referrer/EHA initiator.
Children meeting ES criteria - EHA sent by ES coordinator to child’s local Children’s Centre and services that will become involved with the child and family.
Children not meeting ES criteria - ES coordinator shares recommendations made at ES referral meeting with EHA initiator and EHH.

Family journey: Family contacted within 5 working days of Referrals Meeting by referrer/EHA initiator to explain next steps, support the family’s journey and share the Family File.

Think Family processes followed:
cambridgeshire.gov.uk/thinkfamily

- Team around the Family meeting arranged by EHA initiator and held within 8 weeks of ES referrals meeting.
  Parents and professionals together develop a multi-agency, coordinated and integrated, holistic Family Support Plan to meet the identified needs of the child and family.
- Lead Professional (LP) agreed with parents/carers to coordinate services, support and planning.
- Family Support Plan reviewed at Team around the Family (TAF) meetings every 6 months or earlier dependant on the child and family’s needs; to identify positive changes or challenges, review the appropriateness of support and resources, making alterations where needed and plan for next steps and transitions.

The Early Support coordinators provide a support offer to lead professionals of children and families following the Early Support pathway to aid integrated provision; they can be contacted by professionals and parents/carers.

Support is available to:
- Support Think Family processes by coordinating referrals, assessment, planning, support and services.
- Act as a source of expertise and knowledge of pathways, services, support, resources and information across agencies for children with additional needs related to development and learning.
- Provide, on request, solution focussed recommendations to LPs before/after TAF meetings to ensure families know about the full range of support on offer to support their holistic needs.
- Aid integrated working by e.g. coordinating and sharing information across agencies to aid decision making and diagnoses. Coordinating the ‘Post diagnosis family support pathway’ to ensure timely support is offered to families after diagnosis. Share information to aid effective planning and transitions from and into health, Early Years settings, entry to school or other areas and services.