

Local Offer (Version 5 – October 2014)

Appendix 7 – Wigan's example of how Early Years approach has been captured for local offer

Integrated Early Years Child Development Team

Summary of our Service

Our specialist team provides a service to children aged 0-5 with additional or complex needs. We offer

- Specialist assessment.
- Advice and intervention on the basis of an assessment of clinical need.
- An individual management plan developed and agreed with parents and carers.
- An integrated approach with joint goals and management.
- Close liaison with all other professionals involved in your child's care.
- Signposting to other relevant services as required.
- Support for access to education.
- Support for parents, carers and families with advice and coaching to enable your child to fulfil their potential in all areas.

Children are referred to the integrated early years team by range of professionals across health, education and social care.

The team is based at Platt Bridge health centre but also offers some sessions at Pemberton and Leigh as well as home or nursery visits where appropriate.

The team

Children's Physiotherapist promotes your child's physical abilities through positioning, advice and coaching. They promote quality movement patterns through play to maximise their independence and aim to prevent long term problems from developing.

Children's Occupational Therapist assists in building skills that enable participation in meaningful activities. This may include overall development, feeding, dressing and play.

Children's Speech & Language Therapist promotes communication and eating and drinking skills. This may include understanding and the social use of language or advice about other ways of supporting communication such as signing, using pictures or technology.

Development Support Worker is a trained nursery nurse who has specialist knowledge of play and working with children with additional needs. They work alongside therapists incorporating therapy goals into a play context.

Specialist Health Visitor works with the team to offer advice with a variety of issues including emotional support. She helps to co-ordinate the care and is often available in clinics with the consultant paediatrician. She links closely with the family health visitor and a variety of other agencies.

Therapy assistant works alongside therapists following advice and programmes to promote your child's development.

Community Consultant Paediatrician is the specialist doctor who will see you and your child in the clinic, monitoring your child's progress and offering medical support as needed.

Our partners

We aim to form a partnership with families to enable understanding and to best maximise your child's potential. We work with children, carers and families in nurseries, home and clinics as appropriate.

We have strong links with our medical colleagues, both the community paediatricians and medical consultants based in the hospitals within Wigan and Leigh and the tertiary centres at Alder Hey and Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

We also work closely with our partners from the local authority, both education and care, contributing to the development of education, health and care plans where appropriate and helping to support a child to access early support and education opportunities in local maintained and private and voluntary mainstream pre-school settings.

Positive impact of our service

We recognise that the early years with a child with additional or complex needs can be difficult and demanding both practically and emotionally. We aim to provide a supportive service to families where their child's needs can be addressed in a child and family-centred way. Having an emphasis on an integrated team approach means that families can see a range of professionals at the same time as appropriate and means that the advice is more joined up and co-ordinated. We are keen to involve families in our work in order to make our goals meaningful to them and also to help shape our service to benefit children and families the most.

What we provide

Assessment

Following referral, your child will have a specialist assessment by the appropriate members of our team. Once your child's initial needs are identified you will be signposted to other team members as appropriate in consultation with you.

Intervention

Advice and intervention will be on the basis of the assessment of clinical need. An individual management plan will be developed and agreed with you. Intervention can be offered in different ways to suit you and your child's needs. We work as a team to set targets for your child based on our assessment and observations, which we will share with you.

We share advice and strategies for developing your child's skills during each session.

Intervention may take the form of:

Outreach involves seeing your child on a 1 to 1 basis in a setting such as the clinic, the nursery or at home. If your child is attending nursery, therapists will support access to education with the relevant staff.

Group Sessions involve sessions at the Child Development Clinic with your child joining other children to participate in group play and therapy activities. This can include singing, messy play and sensory stimulation. The sessions usually take place on a 6 week block. The sessions are supported by development support workers and therapists who will advise you how to help your child to maximise their ability and promote their development.

Drop in sessions run on a set basis for you to access the sensory room with the support of a Development Support Worker. These sessions enable you to use the facilities and meet other families.

Team reviews

If your child is known to a Community Paediatrician, multidisciplinary team meetings are arranged to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have. The timing of these is arranged as appropriate. During the review, you will have the opportunity to update us on your child's progress. The outcome of the meeting may be that your child receives a diagnosis, or the Team may feel that a further period of assessment is required.

What is your involvement as a parent or carer?

You will be considered a member of the team throughout your child's assessment and intervention process. You will have a personal knowledge of your child's past history and current abilities, so we value your contribution. We would expect you to take an active part throughout the assessment and intervention process. Support will be provided with advice and coaching to enable your child to fulfil their potential in all areas.

Who else may become involved?

Therapists will liaise closely with all the other professionals involved in your child's care. Where appropriate we may decide with your consent to refer your child to other professionals and services both within health, for example a dietitian or surgical appliances or to our colleagues in education and the Early Learning and Childcare Team to support early education opportunities.

Moving on – transitions and discharge

Your child's needs will continually be reviewed and reassessed as appropriate by the clinicians involved.

If it is felt that your child has no ongoing needs then they will be discharged following discussion with you.

If your child is due for transition to mainstream or specialist nursery or school they will be transferred to the appropriate team.

You and your child will be supported through the transition phase.