



Warwickshire Parent Carer Webinar (SEND) - Health Visiting 4th October 2022 Q&A's

1. Is there support for non-proactive parents to complete referrals? Sometimes referral processes can be off-putting.

Health Visitors can make referrals to other services, but we try wherever possible to encourage parents to do the referrals and we can provide support with this. There are lots of different services that have different processes and some actually won't accept referrals from Health Visitors as professionals. The Family Information Service brokerage service can also provide support and advice.

Family Information Service

- Email <u>fis@warwickshire.gov.uk</u>
- Phone 01926 742274
- 2. Our Health Visitor is wonderful, thank you. She signposted us to Portage and SALT and also to the very valuable Stepping Stones Tuesday group at Kingsway. We are very grateful for the services provided by the Portage & SALT teams, for our 18 month old son who has Down Syndrome. I and other parents are aware there seem to be staff shortages within Portage. Is it known when these shortages may be resolved?

Unfortunately post Covid there has been a significant increase in referrals which is impacting on waiting lists. There are also recruitment challenges, and both the Portage and Speech and Language Therapy services are being reviewed.

3. My daughter is already in school. Where's best to go to for help other than her school SENCO?

Please contact the school nursing service in Warwickshire <u>https://www.compass-uk.org/services/c4h/</u> Tel: 03300 245 204.

Also, the parenting team in Warwickshire County Council can offer support on any parenting issues that you may be facing e.g., sleep, toileting, behaviour parenting. Please <u>click here</u>.

4. Our portage worker said that she thinks our son will shortly quality for 2 year funding for preschool due to suspected autism. She asked me to look for a preschool place for him. I have contacted a preschool and they want to meet with me and a health visitor prior to him starting, to get an idea of his needs and how much support he will require. Would a health visitor be able to do this with me? The preschool manager said he sounds as if he will need higher needs funding and possibly an EHCP. Who do we speak to about this? With all the different people involved, I'm not always sure who does what!

We recommend contacting your health visitor to talk it through initially, and to meet with the preschool manager. We also have links with early years settings. For more information on applying for an Education, Health and Care Plan please see this link: <u>https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/requestehcassessment.</u> The Health Visitor will be able to





contribute to this process. The Integrated Disability Service in Warwickshire County Council should also be able to help - <u>https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ids.</u>

The Graduated Approach guidance may also help in this instance, to inform the process of assessment that will be taking place throughout and which would inform any application for an EHCP. <u>https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send-inclusion-guidance/introduction-send-inclusion-guidance/3</u>

- 5. Our HV has been great referring us to portage Qualified Teacher of the Visibly Impaired (QVTI), Physio and OT. Where we need support is more SEND/sensory based baby/toddler friendly groups e.g., Makaton, sensory classes. Can HV be advised of classes in their areas so they can pass on to us families needing these services?
 - Health Visitors can and do share information on local groups they are aware of.
 - Children and Family Centres and Family Information Service are also good sources of information about local opportunities.
 - Children and Family centres offer Makaton and sensory groups -<u>https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilycentres</u>
 - Be aware that some of the classes are chargeable.
 - There is a SEN Specific Group at Claremont Children and Family Centre in Rugby on Wednesday mornings







• There are groups in Southam on Friday mornings led by Entrust and fortnightly at St James's Church, both specific for SEND groups.



• Active Play session for SEN at Camp Hill Children & Family Centre on Friday mornings and Makaton Courses.







6. I feel my son has autism and he has been referred for an Autism assessment by the specialist he sees. I feel the range of specialists my son sees are not meeting our needs. Who do you speak to when you feel your child's support needs are not being met through the range of specialists we see?

If your child has already been referred for an autism assessment, then normally all the professionals and services that are involved with the child will be contacted, so their views can inform the assessment. Health visiting would be part of that. If you don't feel that needs are being met, we would recommend escalating any concerns through the service managers of the services.

There is ongoing work to reduce the time that families are waiting for autism assessments. It is important to continue the conversation with the specialists that are involved that know your child well. Seeking support from other parent carers can help in your journey too.

Useful Links

Live Feedback Form for SEND www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sendfamilyfeedback

SEND Local Offer webpages https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send

New Local Offer Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/WarksLocalOffer

SEND Inclusion Guidance https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send-inclusion-guidance

Family Information Service <u>https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/40/family-information-service</u>

Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice

- www.warwickshireparentvoice.org
- <u>https://www.facebook.com/Warksparentcarervoice</u>





Children's Centres

- Warwick <u>https://www.facebook.com/warwickchildrenscentres</u>
- North Warwickshire CC <u>https://www.facebook.com/barnardos.co.uk</u>
- Rugby <u>https://www.facebook.com/rugbychildrenscentres/</u>
- Stratford <u>https://www.facebook.com/Stratfordchildrenscentres/</u>

Video Interaction Guidance Service (VIG) – <u>click here</u>

DadPad - https://thedadpad.co.uk/app/

Parenting Support via Warwickshire County Council – <u>click here</u>

School nursing service in Warwickshire

- https://www.compass-uk.org/services/c4h/
- Tel: 03300 245 204