

Early Health Notifications Information for Health Professionals

Date: 10th December 2025

Early identification of needs

A child or young person has Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) if they have a learning difficulty and/or disability that means they need special educational support to be provided for them.

For some children it will be clear from early on that they will require additional personalised support to access early education due to the complexity of their needs. The importance of early identification and intervention is explained in the paragraphs 5.14 to 5.19 of the [SEND code of practice 0-25](#).

Health professionals have a legal duty to notify Halton Council under statutory school age children who have or are likely to have SEND.

By sharing information, we can make sure children get the right help at the right time.

Notifications

The Notification Form should be completed by the most appropriate health professional, alongside parents or carers. This form should only be completed for children whose home address is in Halton.

The Early Identification Notification should not be used to recommend specialist provision, such as a special school, or full-time one to one support. It will support professional conversations and information sharing about children may need additional support in their early years and beyond.

When might it be appropriate to send an early notification?

- Children identified aged 0-2 years with Profound and Multiple Difficulties, usually identified soon after birth.
- Children identified at the 2-year-old check with significant delays across all their developmental milestones.
- Children with significant needs who will access their free funded early years entitlement (funded nursery place).
- Children with significant needs who will be ready to start school .

It is important to note that families may not wish to take up funded nursery provision. In these cases, it is important that the Council are notified of early years children who may have special educational needs who are not accessing a setting.

What details will health professionals need to provide?

Health colleagues will provide information completed in liaison with the parent/carer and will include:

- Personal information about the child, including their Name, Date of Birth, Address, etc.
- The needs of the child, what it will mean for their development and the impact on their daily living.
- Any diagnosis the child may have; the complexity of these needs and whether they are likely to be long, medium or short-term.
- The setting the child attends (where appropriate).
- Any other information felt to be relevant in agreement with the parents/carers.
- Parental consent to the notification.

What will happen with your notification?

All notifications are received by the early years team and discussed at the Early Years inclusion panel. They will share this information with other support services working with children with additional needs.

If the child attends an early year's provision the setting or childminder will be expected to follow the graduated approach and use the SEND support resources available. The early years team are available to support early years settings to meet the needs of the child.

For a child not accessing educational provision

Children with Health notifications are discussed each month at the inclusion panel. Some children may not be accessing an early years' setting. In this instance there may be a referral to Specialist Teaching Advisory Service (STAS) under the Early Years SEND support practitioners, families may be signposted to support in family hub offer or may receive support from 0-19 health team. Family Information service is always available to brokerage access to local early years providers for families.

Support in early years education

The early years team works closely with providers to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are supported through the Graduated Approach. This includes regular visits from Early Years Intervention Officers and access to SENIF funding where appropriate. Additional guidance can be provided by the Specialist Teaching and Advisory Team and Educational Psychologists.

Personal information

The information collected from the early health notifications will be used for several purposes the Council will:

- Contact the child's parents and signpost them to Halton's Local offer and the Family Hubs, or appropriate SEND support services
- Add the child's details to the Council's Information Technology System
- Check the child is accessing their free funded early years entitlement
- Check the setting has the right support in place to meet the needs of the child
- Use the information to consider what further intervention is required from specialist services and if an Education Health and Care needs assessment is needed
- Support transition to school placements for children with SEND

Legal duties

Section 23 of the Children and Families Act 2014 sets out the duty on health bodies to bring a child who is under compulsory school age to the attention of Halton Borough Council if they form the opinion that the child has (or probably has) special educational needs or a disability (SEND). Health board or trust must:

- inform the child's parent of their opinion and of their duty to notify the Council, and
- give the child's parent an opportunity to discuss their opinion with an officer of the health board or trust.

Health board or trust must then bring their opinion to the attention of Halton Borough Council.

If health board or trust think a particular voluntary organisation is likely to be able to give the parent advice or assistance in connection with any SEND the child may have, they must inform the parent of that.