

## **Update on EYPARM for Early Years Providers**

The Early Years Planning and Review Meetings (EYPARMs) have been reviewed to ensure that they effectively meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The aim of the change is to make sure that children are referred at a stage when their ongoing needs are becoming clear and appropriate decisions about their ongoing support needs can be made.

For any early years setting that is considering a referral to EYPARM, there must be a conversation with an Early Years and Childcare Advisor (EYCA) to discuss the child's level of need. In order to support a referral to EYPARM, the EYCA will need to be clear that the child has a high level of need i.e. likely to require something over and above that ordinarily available at School Support. These children will already be known to specialist services who will have completed reports outlining the child's ongoing needs.

For pupils where a quality supported transition and School Support will be appropriate, a referral to EYPARM does not need to take place. The focus for these children should be on planning their transition to enable the school to effectively meet the needs of the child when they start school.

Whilst some children have ongoing, complex needs which are clear from a very young age, there is no benefit to referring them at a time when meaningful educational assessment cannot take place. It is better to work with families to identify and support a child's needs within the setting and refer at a point when an assessment can be conducted effectively, this is often most helpful as they approach school age (approximately 1 year before school start). For more information on EYPARM, please see the West Sussex Local Offer – [www.westsussex.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/localoffer) .

Please note that children who do not live in West Sussex should be referred to the local authority where they live – for more information, including links to nearby local authority websites, please look at the information at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/ecsgoodpractice](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ecsgoodpractice) - Including All Children - Early Years Planning and Review Meeting (EYPARM).