

The role of the Early Years SENCO in Halton

Maintained nursery schools in Halton **must** ensure that there is a qualified teacher designated as the SENCO in order to ensure the detailed implementation of support for children with SEN. This individual should also have the prescribed qualification for SEN Co-ordination or relevant experience.

In accordance with the EYFS framework, Halton requires other early years providers to have arrangements in place for meeting children's special educational needs. Those in group provision are **expected** to identify a SENCO. Childminders are **encouraged** to identify a person to act as SENCO and childminders who are registered with a childminder agency, or who are part of a network, may wish to share that role between them.

The role of the SENCO involves:

- Ensuring all practitioners in the setting understand their responsibilities to children with SEN and the setting's approach to identifying and meeting SEN;
- Advising and supporting colleagues;
- Ensuring parents are closely involved throughout and that their insights inform actions taken by the setting; and
- Liaising with professionals or agencies beyond the setting.

The role of the Area SENCO in Halton

All early years settings have access to guidance and support from Area SENCOs. In Halton, the role of the area SENCO sits within the Early Years Team and is shared between Karen Hardman, Andrea Corcoran, Claire Lomax and Gail Vaughan-Hodkinson.

The role is very specific and distinct from that carried out by specialist services, and includes:-

- Providing advice to early years settings about approaches to identification, assessment and intervention within the SEN Code of Practice and Early Years Graduated approach;
- Providing advice to SENCOs to ensure arrangements are in place to support children with SEN;
- Supporting the development and dissemination of good practice through SENCO cluster group meetings and relevant training;
- Working with existing SENCOs to support smooth transitions;
- Signposting SENCOs to local impartial information, advice and support services, to promote effective work with parents of children in the early years;
- Working with SENCOs to promote an inclusive approach; putting into practice the principles outlined in the Early Years Inclusion Charter.

To access support from the EY Area SENCO Team, you will need to email the EY Area SENCO in-box at eysendco@halton.gov.uk. **Please do not email individual members of the EY Area SENCO team directly.**