|  |
| --- |
| Under Fives Special Educational Needs and Disability Pathway for children with moderate/ severe, or complex/profound SEND |

**Rational**

Luton (through it’s Flying Start initiative) has a particular focus of supporting families who have babies and children under five to ensure they are given the very best start in life, reducing the impact of disadvantage on their future life chances

Luton’s vision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people - that they achieve well in early years, at school and at college to enable them to lead happy and fulfilled lives within a safe environment and where they have choice and control. This includes children with autistic spectrum disorders, behaviour that challenges, profound and complex health needs, physical disability, cognitive needs and sensory impairments. Luton aims to ensure that, where possible, all children with severe/complex additional educational needs are educated in their local community.

There is recognition of the unique challenges that face families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability and the additional support that they require.

This pathway has been written to ensure that all professionals understand how families with babies and young children with severe to profound special educational needs and disabilities can access support.

**Aims of this pathway**

* To ensure that professionals who meet or are working with families who have children under five with SEND (severe or complex and profound) and ***who are*** ***not already in a setting*** understand how to access support for them.
* To provide information, advice and support to parents who wish their child to attend an early years setting. This may be at one of Luton’s six resourced nurseries or at private, voluntary and independent nurseries in their area.
* To provide information on specialist support for children with the most complex and profound needs through accessing under fives support from Lady Zia Wernher Special School.

**I am a professional who is working with a family who has a child with severe or complex and profound special need. What should I do?**

All professionals working with a family who has a child or children under five with SEND and ***who are not in a setting*** should complete the **Notification Form** and return this to the Special Educational Needs Service. Permission to pass details and contact details must be obtained from the parents or guardians.

This information is then filtered by the level of SEND:

* + - Families with children who have **moderate to severe SEND** will be supported by Luton’s Family Workers for two year olds who are based at Flying Start Children Centres.
    - Families with children who have children with **complex and profound SEND** will be supported by early year’s staff at Lady Zia Werner Special School. Families will have the opportunity to receive a home visit and an offer to attend the Little Seeds Sensory Group with their child. Little Seeds Sensory group will offer support for families (sign posting to appropriate services, advice on strategies to develop their child’s engagement and social support through the group) and will offer specialist stimulation. This will run weekly during term time.

Families of children with SEND, who are already in a setting, access support through the setting and through a range of Special Needs Services provided by Luton as part of the Local Offer.