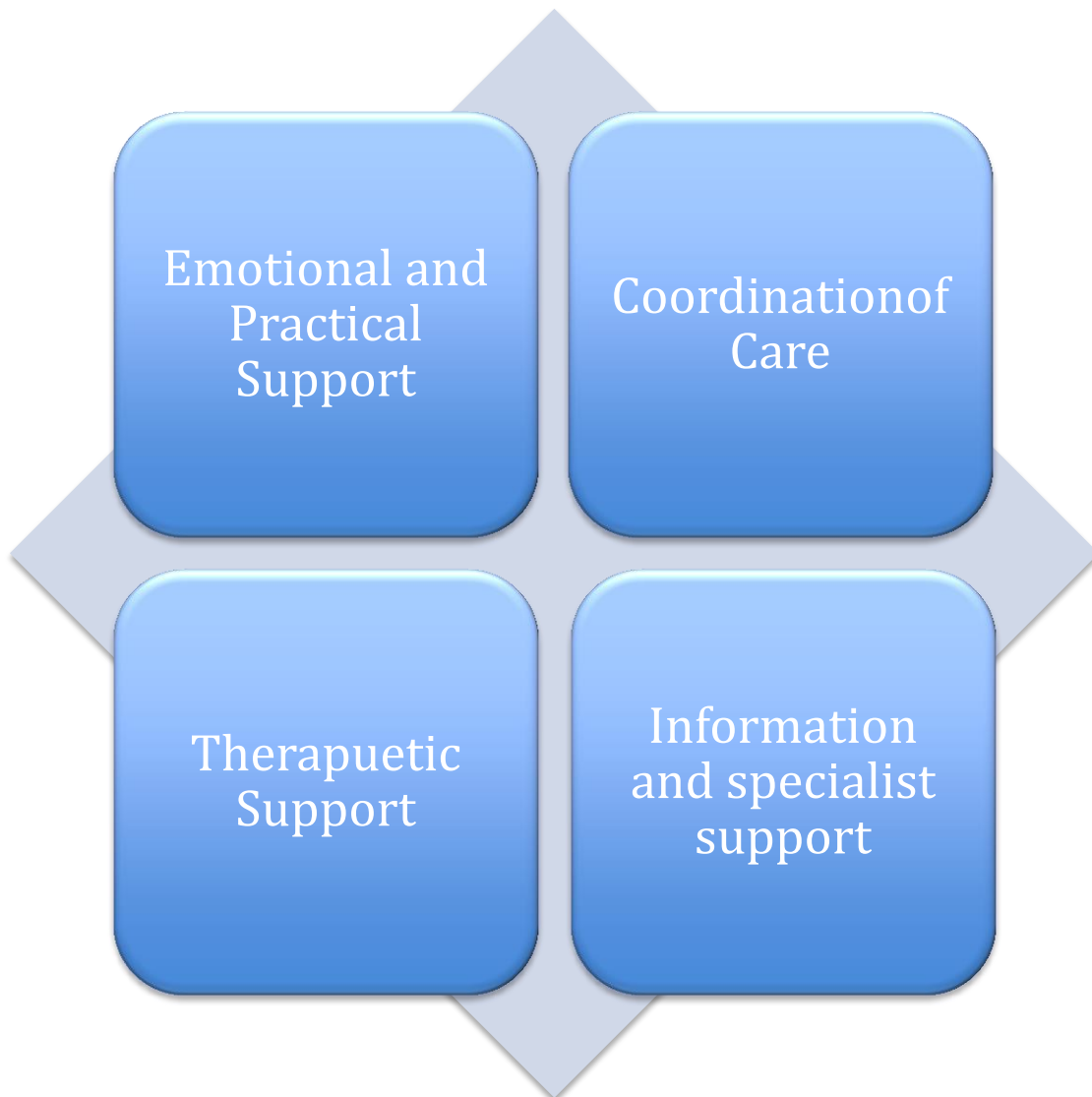


Early Support Practitioner Service Core Offer



Scope of the Core Offer

The Early Support Practitioner Service work in a supportive role with families and children with disabilities. The primary role of the Early Support Practitioner is to empower parents and carers by providing them with support, resources and information to meet their individual needs. The Service aims are

- Emotional and practical support for parents and carers
- Coordination of services to families when many different agencies are involved to ensure a joined-up, holistic service.
- Providing information for families and improved exchange of information between practitioners.
- Supporting the child and their parent/carer to access therapy and support groups

Composition of the team

The team consists of Early Support Practitioners- who have experience of working with a wide range of children with additional needs and their families.

Days / Hours of Service

Monday to Friday 8-4

Acceptance and Exclusion Criteria

All children who attend Therapy Groups will be supported in the group by Early Support Practitioners.

Children referred for a key-working service will be reviewed against the following criteria

- Bristol address
- Pre-school
- Complex health condition that necessitates involvement from 2 or more health professionals
- Additional family/parental/social challenges that impact on the family's resilience and ability to negotiate the health system

The key-working service offers support and information to a family for a limited period of time (typically 3-4 months). The service is flexible and the key-working period can be extended dependant on the needs of the child and family.

Core Offer:

1. Emotional Support

Core Offer:

- Child and Family Centred at all times
- Providing emotional support to empower families to access practical and medical support.
- Support the family while their child is under-going diagnostic assessment
- Signpost to relevant Services for children with a range of disabilities

2. Co-ordination of Care

Core Offer

- Act as a single point of contact for families
- Work with the multi-agency team to ensure shared and effective communication
- Facilitate Team Around the Child

- Attend clinic appointments and communicate outcome to multi-agency team
- Referrals to professionals (not palliative care services unless agrees with Multi-agency team and in supervision)
- To support child and family at times of transition
- Statutory Funds applications (i.e. DLA) – support parent/carer to complete s required. To only undertake further DLA/statutory funds if parent/carers have EAL/literacy/LD
- Charity Funding application- child specific only- i.e. sensory toys

3. Therapeutic Support

- Jointly run Play-and-Stay sessions for children and their parents. The group objectives are:
 - Giving parents ideas and strategies re: play and interaction;
 - Providing opportunities for visiting therapists and other professionals to give information and training to parents
 - Encourage peer support
- Support Therapists (OT, PT and SLT) run assessment groups

4. Information and Specialist Support

Core Offer

- Signpost to relevant statutory and voluntary organisations that pertain to the holistic needs of a disabled child and family
- Education, Health and Care Plan's (EHCP) - support to understand the process and complete the parental contribution.
- Support families to complete a Home Choice application based on the health needs of the child and to follow-up applications as required.
- Accompany children and families on visits to settings as required.