

**Health notification of a child who has or may have special educational needs  
(Children and Families Act 2014 Chapter 6 Part 3 Section 23)**

**The purpose of this document is to provide Parents/Carers with information about Health Notifications to the Local Authority.**

**What is a Health Notification?**

When a health professional identifies that a young child, under 5, may have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) the health service has duties outlined in the Children & Families Act (2104) and the SEND Code of Practice (2015) to notify the Local Authority. *In Hounslow, this is called a Health Notification.* Following assessment, the health professional will inform you that they have identified or have formed a professional opinion that your child has or may have SEND and that they have a duty to inform the Local Authority of this.

**What information is included in the Health Notification?**

The Health Notification is a short summary document which will contain basic information about you and your child, for example names, date of birth of your child, address etc. The health professional will also send a copy of the report which provides information on their assessment of your child's needs.

**Why does the Local Authority need to know about my child?**

The purpose of the Health Notification is to ensure that the Local Authority knows about children with SEND who live in the area. It is also so that they can advise you on services and support that may be available to you and/or your child.

**What happens when the Health Notification is sent to the Local Authority?**

You will be contacted by a representative from the Local Authority to confirm receipt of the Health Notification and to inform you that the information provided by the health professional will be shared at an Early Years SEND Panel.

**What is the Early Years SEND Panel?**

The Early Years SEND Panel is a forum attended by a range of professionals from education, health and social care. The purpose of the panel is to check that you and your child are accessing all services and support available and may also recommend referral and/or advise on any other services that you and your child may be able to access.

**Will I be contacted by a professional from the Local Authority?**

You may be contacted by a professional from the Local Authority to advise on any other services or support that you and your child are able to access.

**How will you keep my / my child's information safe?**

Any information shared will be in strict accordance with current data protection rules. The Local Authority will make sure you understand your rights about how your data is used and will ask for your permission to share your information with anyone else. Sharing information will enable your child to access the appropriate services / provision in the local area.