

BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
EARLY SUPPORT & KEYWORKING

Introduction

Early Support is a way of working, underpinned by [10 principles](#) that aim to improve the delivery of services to disabled children, young people and their families. Early Support ensures that service delivery is child, young person and family-centred. It focuses on enabling services and practitioners to work in partnership with children, young people and their families. It also helps parents and carers have more involvement in the care of their child/young person and to organise future plans. It also aims to help identify those with SEND as soon as possible.

Early Support has been around for awhile for fives and under, with the multi-disciplinary team meetings with families usually organised by Health. The Reforms now require Early Support principles to be used for those with SEND from birth to 25 years of age.

Keyworking is an important part of the Early Support programme. It enables services to coordinate their activity better, and provide families with a single point of contact and continuity through a key worker.

In Bristol

Early Support principles have been established for a long time for under-fives. Now staff who work with young people from 5 – 25 years need to be trained and supported in this way of working too.

Parent carers and staff have been trained and formed training teams. They are developing staff training materials on Early Support, Keyworking, and Preparing for Adulthood. Training will soon be rolled out for hundreds of staff, to ensure they understand this way of working.

If you have any views on the reforms, please email them to: sendplus@bristol.gov.uk, if you want to get involved, [contact us](#).