

Specialist hub of inclusive practice (SHIP)

Information for professionals working with children and young people with SEND

Summer 2024



What is a SHIP?

A SHIP is an inclusive provision within a mainstream school that enables children with a range of special educational needs and/or disabilities to have access to individualised and small group support whilst also benefiting from inclusive practice within the mainstream setting.

What is the purpose of the SHIPs?

SHIPs enable children with co-occurring needs to:

- Attend and go on roll of a mainstream school and have access to specialist provision when needed.
- Attend school close to home and be able to take part in activities after school in the area and with other local children.

Who is a SHIP for?

SHIPs are new provisions offering children with a range of co-occurring needs such as neurodiversity; social, emotional and mental health; and learning difficulties a place to learn and develop when they are not able to access their learning in the mainstream school.

They are for children living in the locality of the mainstream school.

Can I refer a child into a SHIP?

In the current admissions process referrals are not being accepted for SHIPs.

- Children on current admissions lists are being considered in the first instance along with children identified through the Early Years Advisory team.
- A range of professionals have inputted into the information used to identify children who may be suitable for a SHIP placement and who live in the locality of the SHIP.
- If a child attending your setting or school has been identified for an observation, you will be contacted by an Early Years Advisor or a Lead Teacher who will explain the process to be followed.

What happens next?

- Parent/carer gives consent, and a referral is submitted to LA
- Observations made of child in current setting by lead teacher from the SHIP and/or Specialist Partner
- Referral paperwork and observation is added to the SHIP admissions panel agenda
- The SHIP admissions panel meet to agree whether a child would benefit from a place in a SHIP.

What happens if professionals agree that a place should be offered?

If the SHIP Admissions Panel agree that a place will be offered, parent/carers will receive a letter that they will need to respond to. The child's current setting/school will also be informed of the offer. Parent/carers may wish to discuss this offer with the child's current setting/school before they accept the place.

Here are some things that have been recommended to parents/carers that might help them to decide:

- Go and visit the school and meet with the staff
- Have a look at the school website
- Talk to someone who knows you and your child at the current school/setting
- Write a list of all your questions and meet with the teacher at the SHIP to discuss them.

What happens if a child is not offered a place?

If a child is not offered a placement in a SHIP, parent/carers and current school/ setting will be informed.

In all our processes the child remains at the heart of our decision making.

There are some factors that will have contributed to the decision made, these include:

- After observation and discussion, the professionals all agree that this would not be the right setting for the child
- The SHIP provision is already full
- Professionals agree the current setting could meet need by implementing suggested strategies recommended by professionals.