

Portage Pathways

Referral

Before being allocated a PHV, email contact is made which contains a welcome pack with information about our Facebook page, signposting to family hubs/ support groups and practical information.



Allocation to Portage Home Visitor (PHV)

The team lead will contact you at the point of allocating a named PHV to update any information and to discuss the Pathway/sessions you may be offered.

Pathway 1

A child NOT accessing pre-school/nursery:

An assessment will be carried out to determine your child's skills. Should your child meet our criteria, a block of home visits will be offered.

Following these sessions:

A short break from Portage will allow you to continue practicing suggested strategies/ activities until the next cycle of support (if appropriate)

Cyle 2 & 3 will be discussed during the home visits.

Pathway 2

A child accessing a pre-school/nursery setting:

An assessment will be carried out to determine your child's skills. Should your child meet our criteria, a block of home visits will be offered.

A nursery visit will be arranged.

Your child's support plan will be written and shared with relevant professionals.

The service will withdraw following the block of home visits.

Pathway 3

A child who is referred due to a communication/social interaction delay or is currently on or about to be referred to the ASD pathway:

May be offered a virtual workshop & follow up home visits .

A nursery visit will be offered and report shared, discussing the strategies recommended.

The service will withdraw following the home visits.

Enhanced Pathway

Children with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) not accessing nursery/preschool—pathway will be discussed with parents/ carers.



Northumberland Portage Service

A home– visiting educational service for pre-school children with significant or complex special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families.



Northumberland
County Council



National Portage Association
Partners with Parents and Children

What is Portage?

A specialist home visiting educational service for children under 3½ years old with SEND. The success of Portage is based on the premise that parents and carers are the key figures in the development of their child.



Who can refer?

Parents/carers and professionals can refer to Portage via the online referral form https://form.northumberland.gov.uk/form/auto/portage_referral or by scanning the QR code. Supporting documents can be sent via email to: portage.admin@northumberland.gov.uk



Criteria for Portage

Children must:

- be under 3½ years old.
- have a significant delay in at least two areas of their development which impacts on their learning.

For all referrals, parents/carers must:

- consent to the referral.
- be able to engage in a block of Portage sessions/ or workshop.
- have the desire to practice learning activities & suggested strategies in between visits.

NB: *The Portage service will withdraw should there be regular cancelled/failed visits or parent/carer is not available for home visits.*

What will happen during a home visit?

Your Portage Home Visitor (PHV) will arrange an initial home visit to carry out an assessment with you and your child.

If your child meets the Portage criteria, a Pathway will be discussed with you (as shown overleaf).

Your PHV will focus on what your child can do and their interests, supporting you to build on their strengths and skills.

Your PHV will work in partnership with you to prepare a Portage support plan.

Your PHV will teach you how to break learning activities down into small achievable steps to promote your child's development.

Portage Home Visits focus on learning through play by modelling play activities for you to practice in between visits.

Your PHV will work in partnership with other professionals involved with you and your child with a commitment to inclusion.



Portage values the knowledge and expertise of parents and carers.

Partnership working is central to the success and effectiveness of Portage.

Working in partnership ensures the best outcomes for your child.



Parents/carers are welcome to join our Facebook group 'Northumberland Portage Service.'