

## Portage Annual Report 2018



***“The Portage service is dedicated to the children and families with whom we work and from whom we learn”*** [National Portage Association](#)



**Norfolk** County Council

## **Stuart Mason, Head of EVGAAS**

I feel very privileged to have been appointed to the post of Head of Education Vulnerable Groups Achievement and Access Service and relish the chance to work with the Portage Team which makes such a difference to the lives of very young people and their families. By working together we can help to ensure equity of access and opportunity for all children in Norfolk.

## **Foreword by Karen Taylor, Headteacher Sensory Support**

It is a huge pleasure to contribute to this year's Portage Annual Report.

Over the year it has been my privilege to see some of the great work that goes on across the County, from the fantastic parties, which I know the families and children have really enjoyed to the new swimming sessions at Mangreen.

Of course, the day to day home visiting continues and is the backbone of the work Portage does. I am sure these visits are important to families and certainly as a young mother, when my Aunt found her son was profoundly deaf and autistic, she has since told me that the weekly, regular visits she had from her teacher were a lifeline to her. So never underestimate the difference that can be made.

The National Portage Day was celebrated in Norfolk in great style as you would expect from the team and contributions to Facebook got a lot of 'hits' 😊

A new video has been produced which is a great celebration of the team's work and this has been shared with professionals whenever possible.

This report, as in previous years, has a number of stories from families which as always bring the report to life.

My thanks to Mel and the team for their continued hard work, commitment and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Happy reading.

**Karen Taylor, Senior Manager**

## **Overview from the Portage Strategic Coordinator, Melanie Warren**

### **Introduction**

Portage: an odd name for a service supporting children with additional needs and their families, but one which started in the 1970's in Portage, Wisconsin USA for this very reason. Portage is a world-wide, highly respected early year's intervention and new services are being developed year on year as local authorities recognise the benefits of early intervention and prevention of issues further down the life line.

Last year, we developed a Norfolk Portage Checklist, embedding EYFS headings but with elements of Portage Small Steps and it is proving to be a fantastic evidence and outcome tool, as well as celebrating a child's progress and achievements. We are looking to copyright this

and perhaps consider marketing it, if agreed with the NPA. We are in the process of adding a sensory profile, to better inform and capture those children with sensory issues.

It is testament to the Portage service that the importance of those principles; inclusion, partnership, celebrating diversity, positivity, supporting the whole child, family and community, alongside several more, is recognised as a world-wide positive intervention that makes a real difference to families' lives and gives a child the best start possible; minimising disabling barriers that confront young children and their families. You will find evidence of how our service is viewed personally, from Norfolk parents later on in this report.



Happy smiles at the water confidence session

This year, we started our Portage Water Confidence classes at Mangreen House. This is a warm, accessible pool and the classes were offered out to all our families. We held two 7-week sessions that began in Spring. This offered families who felt unable to take their child swimming the opportunity to participate, or families who are waiting for hydrotherapy, families who have received hydrotherapy and recognise the benefits of warm water therapy and to spend valuable one to one time with their child in a warm and safe environment. Of course, there was plenty of singing and fun, as well as sneaky exercise and stretches! Certificates were received, feedback was excellent and we will consider running new classes again next Spring.

Our continuing personal development team training this year has included sensory processing awareness training from a Sensory Integration- trained OT. We are seeing more and more evidence of children coming through our service, who present with sensory issues and it is our responsibility as a home visiting team to have this awareness, although within the boundaries of not being able to deliver sensory integration, as that can only be undertaken by Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists or Speech and Language Therapists. This training has been invaluable and informed much of our practice this year as a team. Libby Ffrench-Mullen, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist delivered feeding training and we have



also refreshed our signing and communication skills, both via trained BSL colleagues and also via our PECS trained practitioners. We have also looked at wellbeing for both parents and children, and ourselves as a team as well as keeping up to date with new safeguarding strategies through the Norfolk Child Safeguarding Board.

We were tasked earlier this year with a request to illustrate how we find the Voice of the Child. We made a video, to the soundtrack of This Is Me from the Greatest Showman, which is now available on YouTube and used across various agencies in training. The link is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMh8-ouEiGc>

Our Accredited Portage trainers have been busy training practitioners across Norfolk and Suffolk. We were commissioned to train Family Support Practitioners within Suffolk County Council in the small steps approach to learning and held one day workshops across the county. This was facilitated as Suffolk's Family and Children's Centres are changing how they work with families and wanted a bespoke training package to support children with additional needs. We hope to roll that training out to other counties who do not have a Portage service at present, to spread the positive ethos.

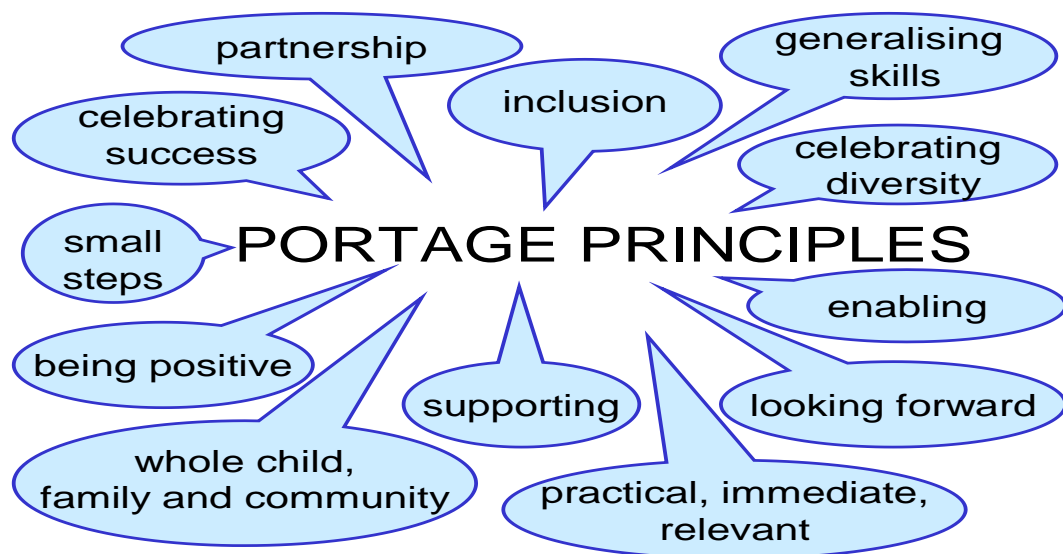
At the core of the service, is of course, our families who understand how valuable and vital Portage is. As a team, we appreciate the great privilege of being welcomed into their homes and lives and as such, develop a strong and trusting bond over time. I have evidence that Portage have eliminated feelings of desperation, isolation and at times, potential safeguarding alerts. Portage awareness continues to be a priority, although referrals have increased year on year. As mentioned earlier, we have greater links with the Speech and Language service across Norfolk, funded by East Coast Health resulting in joined-up working practices and greater emphasis on Portage being able to deliver some of the interventions. We will continue to work closely with our colleagues in health and education and to that end, I am involved in the Early Identification and Notification process and the Pre-school Liaison Group; ensuring that the local authority are aware of children with additional needs and their potential future educational requirements. Our service level agreements with Children's Centres across Norfolk continues successfully and we currently have around 39 seconded staff visiting 2/3 families per cluster.

From the moment we initially assess a child until the completion of smooth transition, the Portage service are there to guide, educate and nurture families through those early years – hence our mission statement of 'Listen, Plan, Play, Learn'.

This year's report focusses on each of our five areas and evidence of how valued our service is can be found on the following pages. I would like to thank all of the dedicated Portage staff for their initiatives and innovative practice to develop this vital role and ensure that every child, regardless of need, is able to achieve. Thanks to Enzo and family for the cover photo.

I hope you enjoy reading this report and how 2017-2018 has evolved for the Portage service.

**Portage/Ann had a huge impact on my life. Ann was not only an advisor, teacher, counsellor and motivator, she also became a friend. She was patient and kind with Nina, understanding her needs and quirks, allowing her to set the pace and enjoy herself. I did not realise when Portage first began how big of a role it would have in our lives. I feel like all the 'big' and 'little' events we have been through in the past few years, that Ann has been ready to listen and give some comfort – or share in my joys. When you receive a diagnosis for your child, it feels, all of a sudden, like you are drowning; it is dark and lonely. Portage helped me to learn to tread water and we will always be grateful.**



The Parent's Perspective part of the Small Steps Workshop – many thanks to Emma and Harry for your invaluable contribution

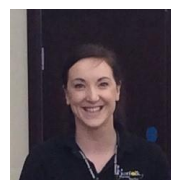


**Sam Spooner**  
Senior Portage  
Practitioner



**Alice Tremlin**  
Core Portage  
Practitioner

# Meet The Team



**Emily Guyton**  
Core Portage  
Practitioner



**Jo Cartledge-Lawn**  
based at  
Sprowston  
01603 301408



**Emma Goodson**  
based at Holt  
01263 712442



**Dawn Cooke**  
based at  
Mundesley

**Wendy Forge  
And Tracy Jonas**

based at  
Fakenham  
01328 864511



**Vicki George**  
based at Aylsham  
01263 735574



**Tricia Mulligan**  
based at Stalham  
01692 583710

## What Has Been Happening in the North?

Working in partnership with Emma from Holt Children's centre we have been running a monthly sensory group for children with additional needs living in the Holt, Corpusty and Wells areas. The sessions are held in the sensory room at the Adult Day centre. Emma has recently attended the Portage Workshop training and will be attending each session along with a member of the core Portage team. Families wishing to attend this group can book by calling 01263 712442.



Portage also provide support at the monthly group for children with additional needs held at Broadland Children's Centre in Hoveton. This is run by Tricia who is also Portage trained and children from any area are welcome to attend this group. This is very well attended and enables children to explore a sensory room, messy play, small world play and gross motor play equipment etc within a safe environment. Please contact Tricia on 01692 583710 for more details.

I feel so lucky to work alongside such a dedicated and supportive team. We all feel very lucky and privileged to be able to visit such amazing and inspiring children and their families. I truly have the best job ever!



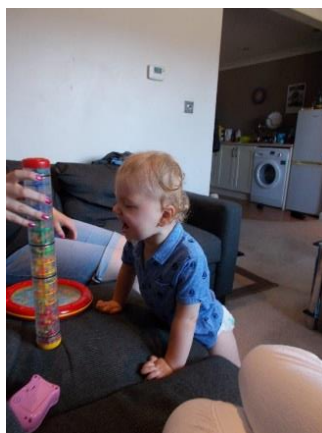
Here are a few words from Joanna Cartledge -Lawn, one of our Children's Centre seconded workers about her portage role. 'I was so excited to be given the opportunity to deliver Portage to families across Norfolk. Delivery of one-to-one support in the home is such an honour and privilege – especially when it involves dyed spaghetti, glittery shaving foam and touchable bubbles! I am enjoying every single second of it and really feel supported and looked after by the amazing Portage team. My Portage visits are without a shadow of a doubt the absolute best bit of my job!'

Dawn Cooke has been a Centre support worker for Mundesley, Cromer and North Walsham Childrens centres for 3 years. She has been a seconded worker for the Portage team for over a year now. She says she enjoys this role, finding it very fulfilling, especially seeing the progress of the child she visits and how Portage empowers his family.

Here are a few comments received from some of the families we visit,

"My portage worker has been fabulous with my son, building his confidence and teaching him new things. He looks forward to the visits and very much enjoys all aspects of the session".

This is a photo of Logan taken during a recent portage visit. His mum said "Logan has come on leaps and bounds since he started Portage sessions"



The photo below is of a little girl called Daisy who receives regular Portage visits. Her mum said "Daisy loves her Portage sessions! She has been having portage since she was a few months old and at 16 months she enjoys the sessions more than ever! Each session she is engaged, learning, having fun and showing her true potential! From singing, reading books, doing puzzles, building towers, popping bubbles, exploring treasure baskets and messy play-there's something to develop every area of her learning.. and she had so much fun whilst doing it! Our Portage worker is fantastic and always brings really creative activities for Daisy to try and ideas for me to steal! Daisy's favourite activity is messy play, she squeals with delight at being covered in shaving foam and whilst having such a great time she's overcoming some of her sensory issues-which is fab! An absolutely brilliant service that I feel has had a truly positive effect on Daisy. Highly recommended and invaluable to us".



# Meet The Team



Sam Spooner  
Portage  
Practitioner



Julie Peach  
Portage  
Practitioner  
Workshop  
Trainer



Ginnie  
MacDonald  
Portage  
Practitioner



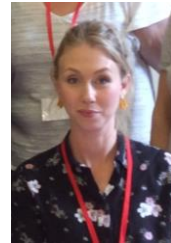
Kirsty Lowe  
Senior  
Portage  
Practitioner



Julia Bloom  
Based at  
Bowthorpe CC  
01603 594030



Marlena Spurgeon  
Based at East City  
CC  
01603 219797



Jade Fulcher  
City and Eaton  
CC  
01603 729808



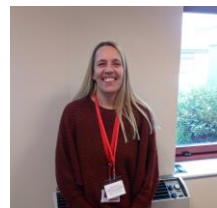
Summer  
Chambers  
Based at  
Thorpe Hamlet  
CC  
01603 307680



Zoe Skerritt  
Based at  
Thorpe  
Hamlet CC  
01603  
307680



Rachael Russen  
Based at East  
City CC  
01603 219797



Lieze Blackmore  
Based at City and  
Eaton CC  
01603 729808



## News from Central

Welcome to the central team, Emily Guyton, Ginnie MacDonald, Julie Peach, Sam Spooner and myself, Kirsty Lowe.

We comprise of a strong core team with a wealth of experience and knowledge that includes backgrounds in a variety of early years settings, from - teaching assistant, family support workers from children centres, a trained sleep counsellor, Nansa, BSL level 4 trained and Portage workshop facilitator. All the team have PECs and Signalong training.

We are based in our mobile office on site at The Clare School, which we affectionately call the 'blue box'. We regularly check in with each other for support, ideas and supervision. We all deliver Portage, using our own styles and unique way but all working towards reaching long term goals by using the small steps approach!

Sam, Ginnie and myself regularly attend the 'First Steps' group, held at The Clare School on the last Wednesday of each month and Sam, Alice and myself support Mini Explorers working with Tricia Mulligan.

We currently have 5 seconded staff from children centres around the city centre, Julia Bloom, Lieve Blackmore, Marlena Spurgeon, Rachael Russen and Zoe Skerritt. I would like to welcome Summer Chambers and Jade Fulcher to our team, who both attended our workshop in September and will be starting their core competencies training and will be introduced to new families soon.

Building on our knowledge and development is key to our practice. We have 3 team days a year where core and seconded staff come together for bespoke training that is often discussed and requested at supervision. For example, we recently had a refreshed morning on signing to develop communication skills with the many children that we work with.

We work closely with other professionals and regularly support transitions to nursery, childminders and school, as well as joint visits with OT, Physiotherapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Educational Psychologist, Clinical Psychologist, Specialist Nursery Nurse, Health Visitors, HV Assistants, VI and HI teachers to name a few and attend FSP's (Family Support Process) and Key Worker meetings, often taking on the lead role. We are often shadowed by student nurses, Health Visitors, Occupational Therapists, trainee Educational Psychologists and seconded staff.

Marlena has very kindly agreed to add what Portage means to her as a seconded practitioner:

Hi,

Over the last 3 years I have worked with 4 families delivering Portage visits at home.

The children that I worked with had different levels of disability and health problems. The support I offered had to be adjusted to their individual needs, every time however I worked with parents, mainly Mums, and together we followed their child's lead and aimed for their enjoyment and sense of achievement however little it may seem to outsiders.

Sometimes we moved the sessions to the garden as the open space was calming, less confusing and encouraged concentration. Other times it was lots of singing, craft or simple games, encouraging turn taking.

During every visit I talked with the parents, listening to them, sharing their worries and celebrating, happy, proud moments, offering advice and signposting to groups and services that may be useful.

I have met some lovely families and have thoroughly enjoyed working with them.

Another practitioner shared in supervision that she likes to transfer the Portage model to everyday life at home and at work...

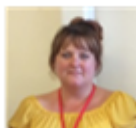
'I think small steps approach should be used by everyone for everything'!

One thing that is highlighted at every supervision is that we care passionately about the children and families that we work with. We try to listen to our families, work with them to plan activities and set goals, tailored to their individual child. We encourage play and making time to have fun, where possible including siblings and extended family members.

Many thanks to the children and families that we work with, allowing us in to their homes.



**Kirsty Nicholas**  
based at Caister  
01493 721180



**Alison Mahoney**  
based at Acle  
01493 752950

# Meet The Team



**Kim White**  
based at Priory  
01493 743000



**Becky Goffin**  
Village Green  
01493 789562



**Ann Man**  
based at Trinity  
01493 740242



**Gemma Robinson**  
based at Priory  
01493 743000



**Sarah Worlidge**  
Senior Portage  
Practitioner (East)



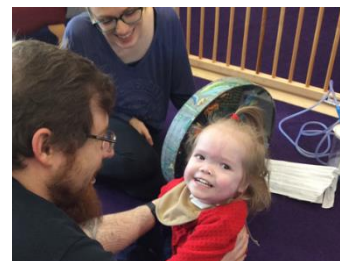
**Julie Peach**  
Core Portage Staff  
Gt Yarmouth-  
Tuesdays

We cover the reach areas of the following Children Centre areas and the smaller surrounding villages:

- Acle Marshes
- Seagulls (Gorleston & Hopton)
- Caister
- Priory (Great Yarmouth)
- Trinity (Martham)
- Village Green (Bradwell /Belton)

## What Has Been Happening in the East ?

Working in partnership Village Green Children's centre we have been running a sensory play group for Portage families on a monthly basis. SENSations was developed after listening to parents views about the difficulties faced when accessing groups for a child with SEN and tackling the challenges that come with this. Such as, the equipment required to take along with them or complicated medication regimes.



The group has allowed families to come together in a relaxed and fun way and provided them with a safe, stimulating space to first experience these group settings, which are tailored to meet their children's needs. It has allowed families to share their experiences with one another, build friendships and provided support and guidance. This often leads to families feeling more confident to attend mainstream groups and sessions in the local community. We now have additional support at the groups and a Specialist Health visitor has begun attending to offer advice and help to those that may need it 😊

Each group has a different theme and provides lots of fun, sensory experiences for children to experience that are related to the theme. This usually includes sensory play, story time, singing, craft keepsakes and many more. Following the success of the Belton group we have now developed another group in Acle for parents on this side of the East reach area and this has proved invaluable to those parents that have been attending. 😊



" We love coming to the Portage group as it gives us a chance to mix with other children with SEN and learn from their parents, Sarah and Becky."  
(Sophie + Matilda)

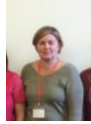
"I love taking Delilah to the Portage group because there is no pressure to compare her to other babies, like you get at other groups in the community. I feel more confident here and comfortable to talk to other parents about her needs! She has lots of fun too...and LOVES the shiny box!"  
(Melissa + Delilah)

Please see our facebook Page 'Norfolk Portage Service' for dates and times of our next groups 😊

# Meet The Team



**Charlotte Wells**  
Terrington St. Clement  
07876371294



**Maxine Cooper**  
Downham Market  
07803115598



**Sarah Gunnill**  
Swaffham  
07793771042



**Amy Bunting**  
Vancouver  
07872675577



**Donna Foster**  
North Lynn & Wootton's  
07884245575



**Louise Whitehead**  
Vancouver/Hunstanton  
07718113944



**Linda Langham**  
Senior Portage  
Practitioner  
07717224757



**James Pike**  
Core Portage  
Practitioner  
07717355069



**Sarah Adams**  
Hunstanton/Vancouver  
07730195099



**Nicola Warden**  
Downham Market  
01366387403

## What Has Been Happening in the West ?



We provide weekly, fortnightly or monthly home visits to work with your child and family as a whole. During the home visits we may use sensory stories, engage in food play (where it might get messy) we will bring exciting new toys, plus some old favourites. There will generally be bubbles and there will always be fun ☺



Portage Practitioners in the West also support families whilst they attend Churchill Park Footsteps Group, which is a stay and play group for children with additional needs and their siblings. This group is held weekly on Tuesdays 10.15-11.30am at Churchill Park Complex Needs School. It is based in the reception class and is a chance for parents to meet and chat whilst their children explore the school environment in a safe and engaging session led by the reception class teacher.



Parents in the West can also access 'Little Discoverers', a preschool for children with movement difficulties and delayed development where parents stay with their child. These free sessions run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10-11.30am. Contact 07805 427044 for further details.



In addition to these groups, the Children's Centres often provide tailored groups for the families in their areas. Swaffham Children's Centre recently held a 'Wow Group' where parents and their children could come and access support and advice and also get involved in some sensory play. This group has now finished, however Downham Market Children's Centre run a 'Chatterbox Group', on Mondays 1pm-2pm. This is a free bookable course. Contact Sarah Gunnill on the number above for more information.

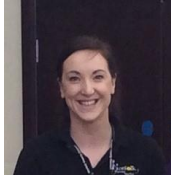




# Meet The Team



**Amy Puttock**  
Senior Portage  
Practitioner



**Emily Guyton**  
Core Portage  
Practitioner  
South Area



**Aida Daugintiene**  
based at Watton  
01953 880175



**Diane Sartin**  
based at Watton  
01953 880175



**Shelly Simpson**  
based at Dereham  
01362 692839



**Issy Marlow**  
based at Thetford  
01842 766438



**Laura Hammond**  
based between  
Wymondham &  
Long Stratton  
Clusters  
01953 713896



**Pauline Langstaff**  
based between  
Attleborough &  
Long Stratton  
Clusters  
01953 451196



**Angela Mayes**  
based at Diss  
01379 651786

## What Has Been Happening in the South?

As well as visiting families in their home, we have been working closely with Chapel Green School, which has recently moved from Attleborough to Old Buckenham. Chapel Green School recently started a stay and play session for families to attend, to give families and the children a chance to meet the staff as well as seeing the facilities. Both sessions have been well attended and due to this Chapel Green School have decided to continue these and have planned more sessions for this term. If you would like more information or to attend please contact the school on 01953 453116.



As well as Chapel Green, Watton Children's Centre has just started a group called 'Little Pals' and this is run by Diane and Aida, who are both Portage Trained. Please contact them on 01953 880175 for more information. On top of these groups we are lucky that both Dereham and Thetford have a sensory room that is free for families to use. Families have to be registered with the Children's Centre and complete an introduction course (which takes approx. 15 minutes) and then you are free to book to use this! Please call them should you wish to find out more regarding this (Dereham – 01362 692839 and Thetford – 01842 766438). I regularly use these for some of my sessions, so if you would like some of your sessions there with your Portage Practitioner please do speak to them and we will see what we can arrange.



I would just like to say a huge thank you from all the team I work with, both core and children's centre, to all the families who welcome us into their homes and let us share all the special moments with them. I know I feel incredible lucky to have this job and can't wait for the next year ahead, where I get to meet some more amazing families!

## What people have said about Portage?

We all feel incredibly lucky to work in Portage and with such special families and when I asked Diane, Seconded Worker, what working for Portage meant to her here is what she said:

"Since I became part of the Portage Team I have loved meeting other Portage Practitioners and attending the team training days, where I have gained a wealth of knowledge. Attending these training days has really helped my confidence grow.

When I get introduced to a new family, I never really know what's going to happen and whilst it may take a few weeks or months before a child engages in play, when they do it's very rewarding!"

As well as asking the workers I also asked a couple of parents what Portage meant to them and here's what they said:

"Portage is the best service we have ever received!"

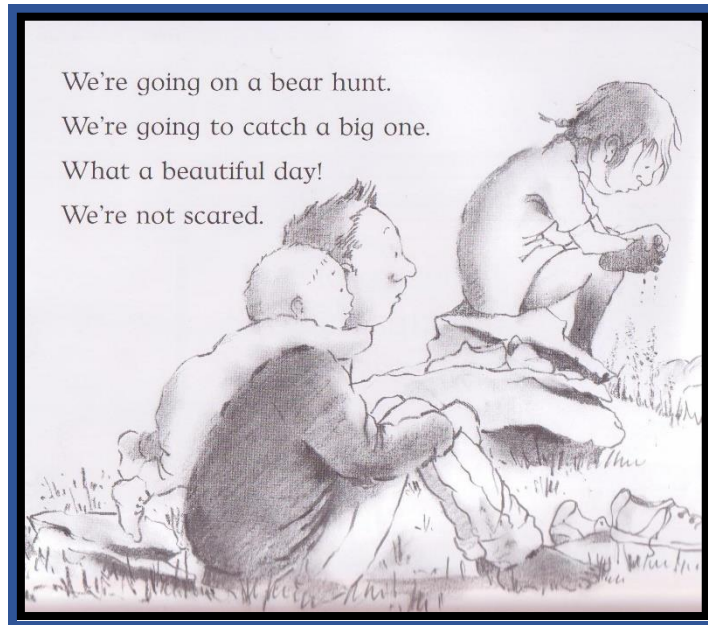
"It's been so helpful to me as a parent! It's scary having a child with special needs, but Portage has been so supportive and made me realise to look at all the small things and for that I am so grateful!"

"I know I can always rely on Portage to help and it's not just my son that looks forwards to the sessions every week, I do too!"

## Enabling families to spend time together

Portage Bear Hunt Party - held at Swanton Morley Village Hall on

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018



Listening to valuable feedback from parents and carers, we chose the same venue for this year's event as the mid-county location works well for families and separate rooms enable us to have a quiet sensory area, which again proved very popular, the main hall where parents/carers and children could meet and interact, with craft tables to make your own bear ears, a sensory area with foamy soap, create your own bear paw cookies and a showing of the film Paddington. This year, we offered children, parents/carers a range of delicious snacks and drinks and of course, we had to include Paddington's marmalade sandwiches! Staff families always offer to help as they enjoy the parties as much as we do!





*Ready, teddy, go... !*



*Goodies abound..*

As families began to arrive, it was a joy again to see so many meeting up and sharing their stories. Families soon settled in and bear paw cookies were made (and eaten!) and scrummy food consumed. The chill-out area with Paddington showing was well utilised this year. An important element of the party is to negate the feeling of social isolation that some of our parents, carers and siblings experience and, judging by the evaluation feedback received again this year, this was achieved once again. During the party, we took footage and stills for our Voice of the Child video, which was made to the Greatest Showman soundtrack and has proved a very popular hit on YouTube – link above. Many thanks to all the parents and families who gave their permission to allow us to demonstrate how we ‘listen’ to the children we work with.



*Story time*





## Funding

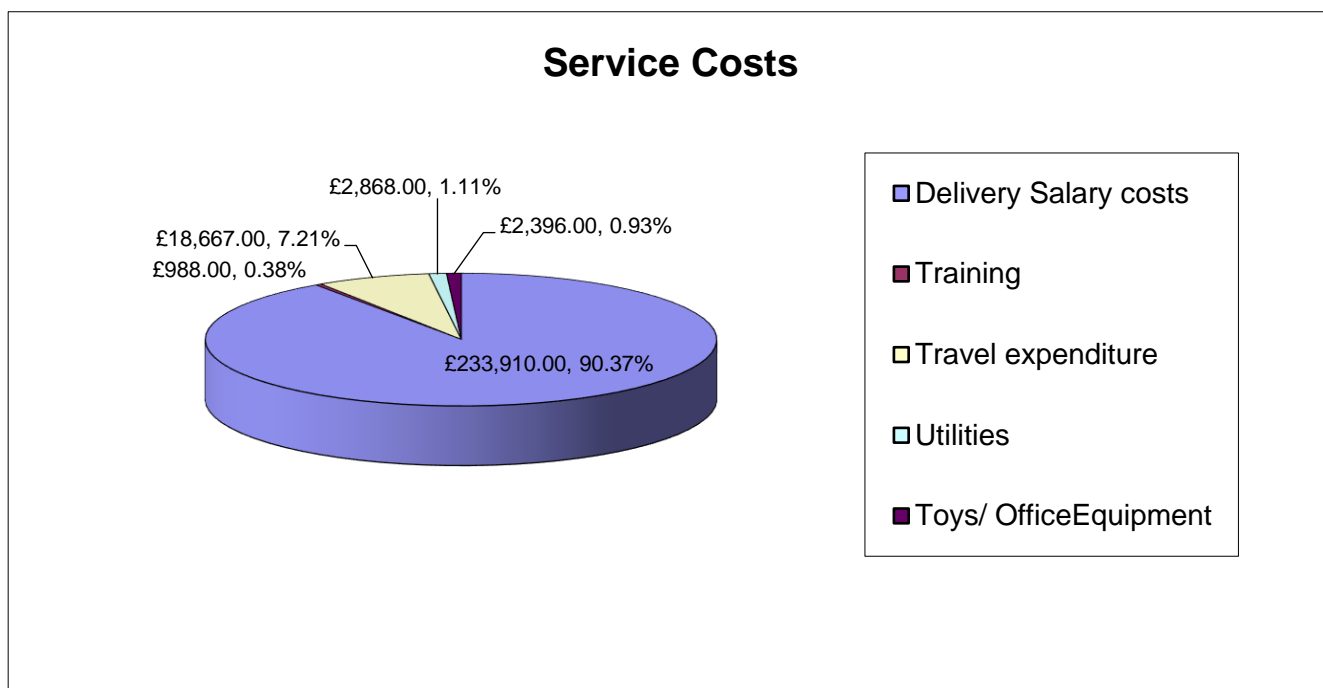
The Norfolk Portage Service is funded by Norfolk County Council's allocation of Early Years Intervention Grant. Unfortunately, this year we lost our funding through Great Yarmouth & Waveney CCG, which accounted for **£10,625**. We have been successful in raising some additional income raised from service development initiatives and training, resulting in an income of **£5,340**. Referrals from health colleagues 2017-18 equate to **298** families, the largest referral stream.

### Funding streams

- Norfolk County Council Core budget £160,740
- Early Years grant £ 77,660 £ 238,400
- Total NCC funded other income of £15,967
- Total Budget **£254,367**

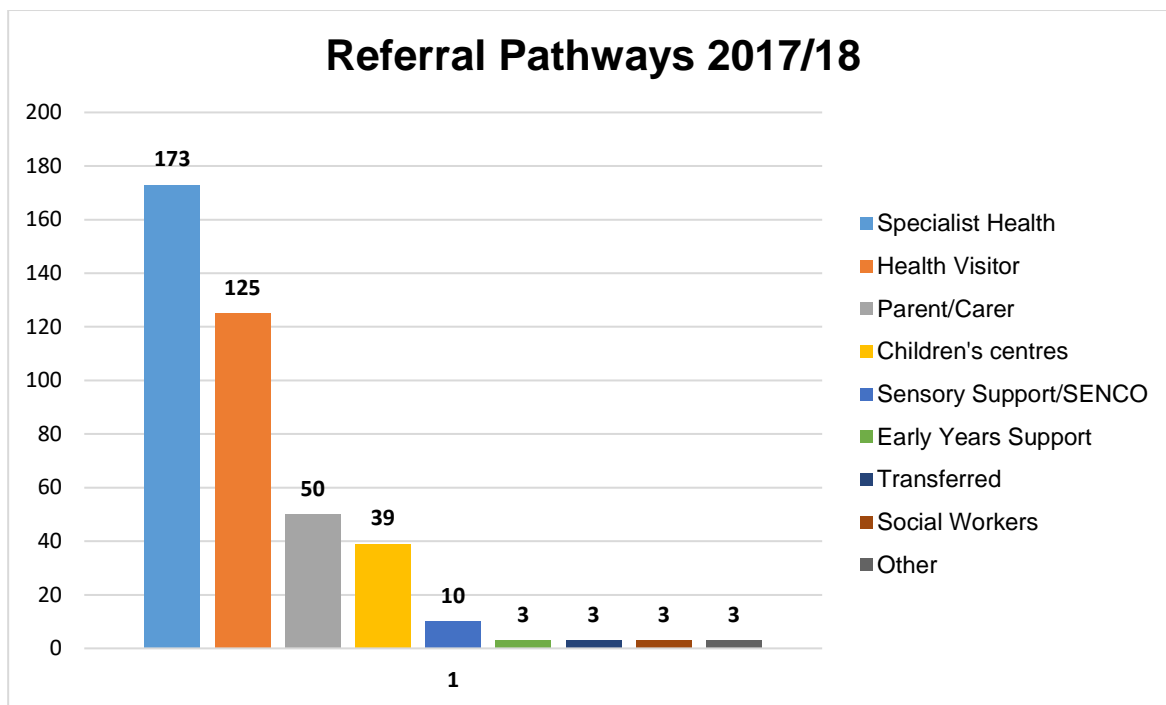
The following diagram gives a breakdown of the expenditure over the year. The actual numbers of contacts from families to the Portage service was **409**, an increase of **7.635%** this year, with a total discharge of **203** from caseload from April 2017 – April 2018.

Our service level agreement with Children's Centres mean that we have service delivery for **56.5 hours** across 29 secondees (**1.527** fulltime equivalent) – this remains a vital element of our service and equates to approximately **40 families** who receive a service from a seconded Portage practitioner, as well as ensuring that early year's practice across county is cohesive.



## Referral patterns across the County

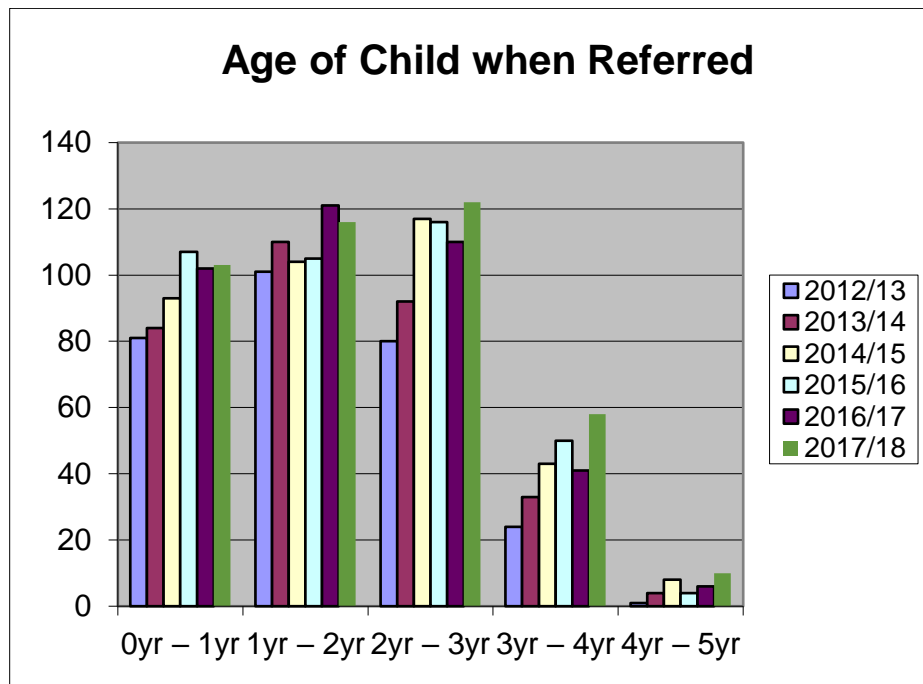
Referrals have remained steady over this year. The pie chart below shows the percentage of referrals in each division of Children's Services (rounded). As usual, our greatest percentage of referral are from health colleagues.



## Age of Child at Point of Referral

The chart below shows a change in the age of referral, with a slight increase this year in the 3-4 year age range.

It is our priority to encourage more referrals for children age 1-2 and under and there is marked evidence that this is a changing statistic; this year again was the highest for the years 1-2 and appears to be an ongoing picture, which collaborates with the vision of the National Portage Association of the earliest possible intervention. We anticipate ongoing increase in this age group now that we have a partnership agreement with every Children's Centre across the county and greater links with NICU and Buxton Ward at NNUH to identify those children at the earliest stage.

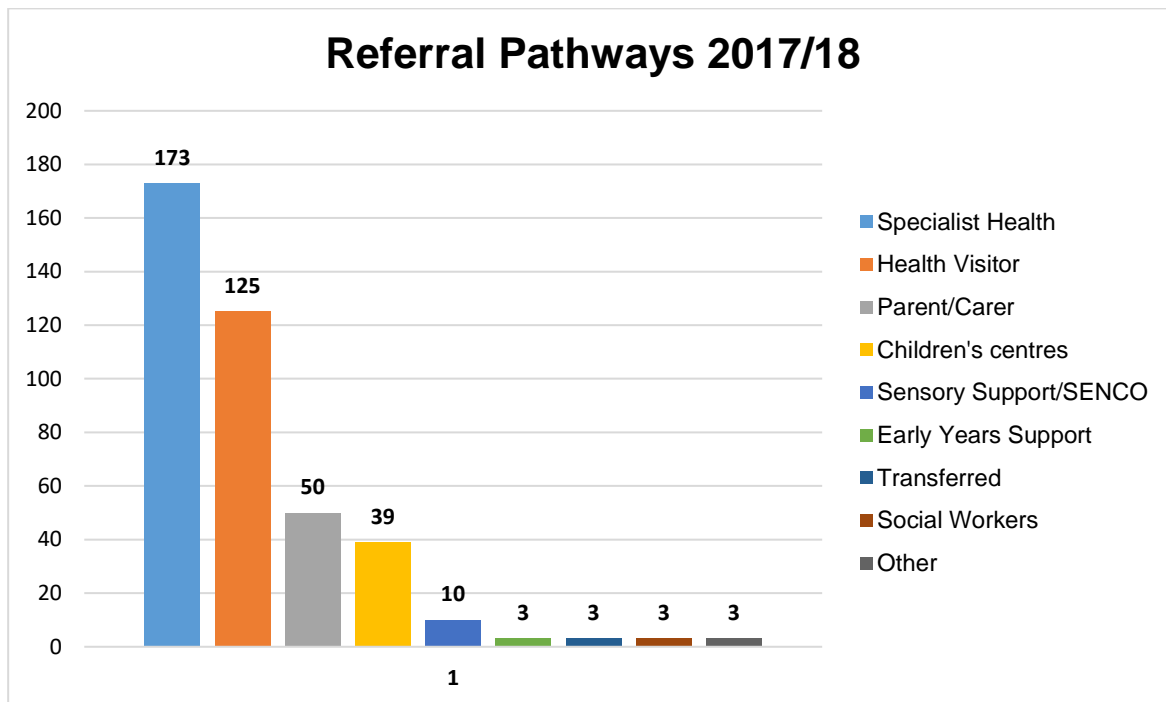


## Referrals Pathways

The Norfolk Portage Service works closely with the specialist health providers for children with additional needs and this is why they are our most consistent referrers. There are four Child Development Centres; Bury St Edmunds, the Newberry Centre in Gorleston, the Children's Centre at Norwich Community Hospital and the Roxburgh Centre in King's Lynn. These host the 'Pre School Liaison Groups', which are attended by the Portage team.

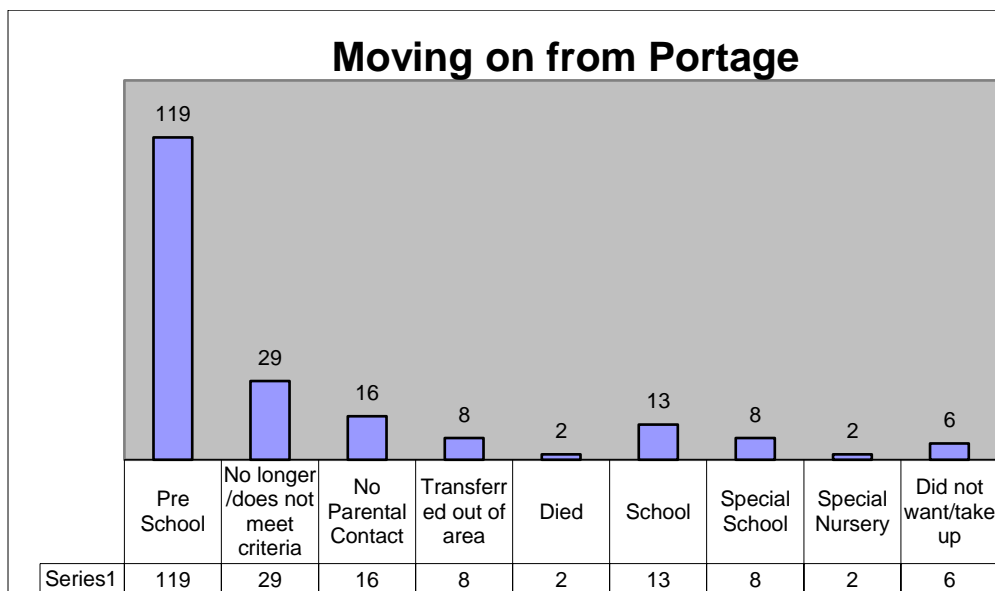
We continue to receive an increase in referrals made by Health Visitors, Children's Centres and Parent/Carers. A new referral pathway from Sensory Support Teachers and Special Educational needs Coordinators in settings was developed. An increase in referrals from specialist health colleagues, including the new specialist and other health visitors to **298** illustrates our strong links with health colleagues and a growing awareness of our service within Cambridge Community Health service. This highlights the success of Partnership Agreements with Children's Centres and our close links with Health colleagues. Since moving to our base at Woodside Road and being located within the Virtual Sensory Support School service, Early Years' professionals are working even closer with Portage practitioners in providing a wrap-around service for our children.

The bar chart below shows the amount of referrals made by the variety of agencies and individuals we work closely with. It is encouraging that parents feel able to self-refer and this has been made more accessible through the hyperlink on the Portage website, social media awareness and excellent feedback at peer support groups, culminating in a steady **50** self-referrals.



## End of Service Pattern

The chart below identifies where a child moves onto once leaving the Portage service.





## ***Norfolk Portage Service Development Plan Aims 2018***

***(Full format available online)***

*“A good education for every Norfolk learner”*

This Improvement and Development Plans links to Children’s Services aims.

### **Mission Statement**

To champion the early education and support of children 0-5 with additional needs and their families, through delivery of comprehensive and flexible support to empower and to reach their full potential.

**“Listen, Plan, Play, Learn”**

### **Service Priorities:**

- Continue high quality, appropriate support to promote inclusion at the earliest stage
- To champion high standards for provision and educational outcomes following transition from Portage
- Effective support for mental health and well-being of families
- To continue to raise awareness of Portage with health colleagues and to investigate further links with NICU and NNUH Buxton Ward to empower and support parents from earliest stage
- Encourage greater involvement of parent rep cohort
- Implementation of support groups
- To ensure that the Voice of the Child is considered across the service
- To continue partnership agreements with children’s centres across Norfolk
- Continue to roll out Small Steps training to other authorities and Early Year’s Practitioners