

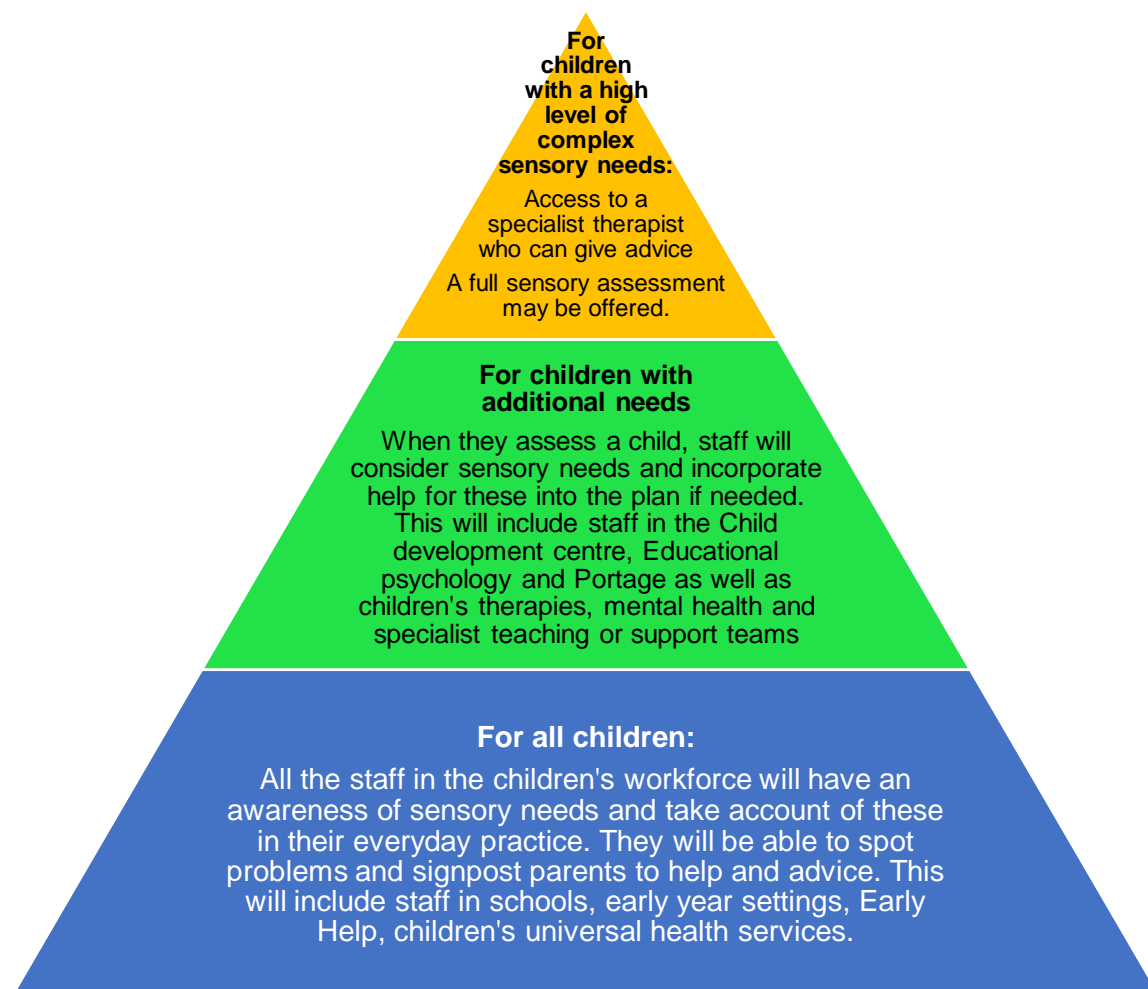
## Support for sensory differences in Rotherham – the new model

### What is the new model?

The new model is based on the following principles:

- Everyone has sensory needs of some sort or another – so we need to cater for the full range
- Doing the right thing for children with sensory differences is everybody's responsibility
- Having the right support early on is crucial if we are to stop small problems turning into big ones
- Help with sensory needs is just one of the 'tools in the box' and should be provided as part of an overall approach
- Across Rotherham there should be a consistent approach so you get the same advice regardless of which service your child is involved with

*The idea is to have knowledge and skills right through the workforce so that children get the right support for their sensory needs, at the right time, from the people they are already working with.*



### **How has the new model been developed?**

The Rotherham model has been developed by a working group including representatives for Rotherham Parent and Carers' Forum, teams in Rotherham Council, Child and adolescent mental health services and Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust.

It has been based on feedback from families and staff about where the gaps are – and is rooted in the evidence on what works for children with sensory needs and the latest national guidance from professional bodies.

### **What's the plan?**

We are fortunate to have been able to appoint an experienced, sensory trained therapist to take the lead in setting up the new model. Together with the working group, this person is currently working on the following:

- Putting useful information and resources on the Local offer website
- Extending the range of parent workshops on offer
- Setting up training for the children's workforce
- Developing assessment tools, checklists, advice sheets and resources for use across Rotherham
- Linking in with schools and teams to 'get the word out' and pilot new ways of working
- Setting up a system so staff can 'escalate' children causing concern and get advice or a full assessment from the specialist therapist

### **How far have we got?**

This is an ambitious project that and it will take some time to get everything set up – but we hope that families will gradually start to notice a difference over the next year. Please bear with us as we roll out the model and work to embed it. **As we get the model set up, if you have feedback on what is working well or what needs to change, please let us know.**