

Early Help Assessment

Safe, Supported, Transformed

A guide for children, young people and their families



Useful information:

Family Information Service (FIS): For general information about services available to children and families call 01724 296629 or visit www.northlincs.gov.uk.

Children's Centres: Activities and support is available at any of the 12 children's centres across North Lincolnshire. Visit www.northlincs.gov.uk to find your nearest centre.

Community Wellbeing Hubs: For a wide range of services to improve health and wellbeing for adults and older adults call 01724 277906 or visit www.northlincs.gov.uk.

Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities: For resources, services, support, activities and events for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families. Visit www.northlincs.gov.uk.

Children's Service Single Point of Contact: Call 01724 296500 if you have concerns about a child or to request a service from the Families are Safe, Supported and Transformed (FaSST) Team.

Access and Adult Protection: Call 01724 297979 if you have concerns about an adult. If you need to ask about anything, please contact your Lead Professional below.

Early Help Assessment contact information:

Name of Lead Professional:.....

Organisation of Lead Professional.....

Phone number:.....

Date given:



This leaflet explains how everyone in North Lincolnshire can work together to provide early help for your family





What is an Early Help Assessment?

The Early Help Assessment is a way of gathering information from you about your family and using it to decide on what type of support is needed, if any, to help. The assessment builds on your family's strengths. The assessment is voluntary - you and your child can choose to be involved.

How will the Early Help Assessment help my family?

The Early Help Assessment is used to help you support your child to achieve the best outcomes in life. A simple solution may be identified or further support may be necessary.

The Early Help Assessment will ensure that everyone involved with your child – such as midwives, health visitors, school nurses and teachers – work with you and your family. The Early Help Assessment will help you receive the right support at the right time as soon as needed. The Early Help Assessment will support you and your family in getting back on track by building on family strengths. As The Early Help Assessment is a shared assessment, you only have to tell your story once. People from other organisations will talk to each other and share information with your consent.

When is The Early Help Assessment used?

The Early Help Assessment will be used as soon as you or someone who works with your child would like your child to receive extra support. It will help to identify your child's additional needs and other workers and services required to support your family.

How does it work?

A worker will ask you and your child some questions about what is going well in your family, any worries or concerns you have and what support can be put in place.

This information is recorded on a simple form. You and your family will agree what is written on the form, and you will be given a copy of it. Older children may feel able to discuss their situation on their own with the worker.



Confidentiality

Generally, information which you and your family provide will only be shared with those that need to know. These people/services will be written on the back of the form so you know who they are and we will ask your permission before sharing anything with them.

However, there may be certain times when the people working with you need to share information. For example:

- when there are concerns that a child or young person is at risk of, or is suffering, abuse or neglect;
- when an adult is at risk of harm; or
- to help prevent or detect a serious crime.

Who will be the lead professional?

The lead professional will generally be the worker who is someone you know, trust and who knows you and your family well. They will complete the assessment with you and your family and will keep you informed, listen to your views and support you through the whole process. The lead professional will work with you to arrange the services supporting your child and will make sure everything is going to plan.

What happens next?

Depending on the agreed outcomes, the lead professional will either call a multi-agency meeting of services who can help or help you themselves (single agency) and review regularly to ensure the help is working for you.

Meetings are usually held within 20 working days of the assessment being completed. If there is a reason why this cannot happen the lead professional will contact you.

