

## Family support

The North Lincolnshire children and families offer includes:

- Information, advice and guidance
- Outreach, community and family support
- Online resources

If you need advice about coping with a crying baby, dealing with conflict at home, money worries or any other issue, please contact our family support team. We can help you over the phone or arrange a visit if you prefer.

Our Family Support team can be contacted on [01724 296500](tel:01724 296500) during office hours.

## Other useful information

### 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.northlincslocaloffer.com](http://www.northlincslocaloffer.com)

### Children's Service Single Point of Contact:

Call 01724 296500 if you have concerns about the welfare of a child or to request support from the Family Support Team.

### Access and Adult Protection:

Call 01724 297979 if you have concerns about the welfare of an adult.

## Early Help Assessment contact information:

Name of Lead Professional:.....

Organisation of Lead Professional.....

Phone number:.....



# Early Help Assessment

## A guide for families



This leaflet explains how Early Help works to support children and families in North Lincolnshire

## What is Early Help?

Early Help is the support provided to a child or family as soon as a problem emerges or to prevent further problems in the future. The main aim is to improve outcome for children and their families.

## What is an Early Help Assessment?

The Early Help Assessment is a way of gathering information from you about what your family need help with and using it to decide on the right type of support and actions to be taken to improve things.

The assessment builds on your family's strengths and what is working well. The assessment is voluntary which means you can choose if you want to accept support.

## How will the Early Help Assessment help my family?

The Early Help Assessment is used to identify the help that is needed at the earliest point, and to prevent things from escalating or getting worse. It could help to find a quick solution or identify extra support if needed.

The information gathered will be used to help you to consider what is happening in your family, why it is happening and what you want to change. The professionals you are working with will then help you and your family to create a plan that says what you and other people will do to help you make the changes needed.

The Early Help Assessment will ensure that everyone involved with your family – such as schools, health professionals, housing officers or support workers – communicates and works together to support you.



## How does it work?

With your agreement, the professional you are working with will talk to you and your family about what is going well in your family, any worries or concerns you have and what you would like to change. This information is recorded on a simple form along with any other relevant information such as what support has helped before and why the problems may be happening. You and your family will agree what needs to happen next.

## Confidentiality

Generally, information which you and your family provide will only be shared with those who are helping you and those that need to know.

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
- to help prevent or detect a serious crime

## Who will be the lead professional?

Any professional can complete an Early Help Assessment with you.

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



## What happens next?

If the assessment shows that there is a need for some additional help or support, the lead professional will arrange a meeting with you and the people who can help 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.

If there are still things that you need help with after the first meeting, more meetings can be agreed which are usually between 6 and 12 weeks apart.