

## 2-minute briefing

# Early Help

### Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility:

*In order that organisations, agencies and practitioners collaborate effectively, it is vital that everyone working with children and families, including those who work with parents/carers, understands the role they should play and the role of other practitioners.*

*They should be aware of, and comply with, the published arrangements set out by the local safeguarding partners.*

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

**Local Arrangements are underpinned by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the Children Act 2004(as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017).**

In North Lincolnshire, the safeguarding partner organisations and the lead representatives are:

- North Lincolnshire Council – Chief Executive
- North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group – Accountable Officer
- Humberside Police – Chief Constable

All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding including through any contributions from relevant agencies.

### Early Help

When Early Help is needed, we know that families want help from people and professionals that they know and trust. The One Family Approach gives the permissions for professionals, including those working with adult family members, to act early and provide the help that is needed.

In line with the One Family Approach, professionals should seek to enable families to find solutions, based upon their strengths, to improve outcomes and be independent from services.

For families receiving **coordinated early help from two or more agencies at 'targeted focused' level:**

- The needs and strengths of the whole family should be captured in an early help assessment, undertaken by the lead professional, with a clear focus on the child
- Early Help assessments and the outcome should be recorded on the online DASH system
- There should be a plan of enabling help, developed with the family, aimed at improving outcomes and reducing need, which is regularly reviewed with the family until no longer needed
- Early help should be provided with the consent of, and in partnership with families. The voices of children and adult members should be clear throughout.
- If progress for children is insufficient or if the help does not improve outcomes, other approaches should be taken.

**If the needs of children escalate and require a specialist service in line with the levels of need set out in this document a referral should be made to children's social work services.**

### Process for completing an Early Help Assessment

Contact Children's Services Single Point of Contact on 01724 296500 to find out if an Early Help Assessment (EHA) has been started and to log that you are starting one.

Download the necessary forms from <http://www.northlincs-mars.co.uk/early-help>

You will need:

- Early Help Assessment
- Early Help Practitioner guide to completing an Early Help Assessment
- Service user view form

Further information is also available on the Children's MARS website including:

- Early Help Assessment process document
- Information leaflet for children and families
- Early Help Assessment Quality Assurance checklist

You should:

- Complete the assessment in the home (where possible)
- Make the plan with the family/child and jointly agree outcomes
- Gain consent to share the assessment and information with all services/agencies involved
- Get signature from parent/carer/child
- Ask the parent/child to complete the service user view form

### One Family Approach – Organisational Model

#### Universal (Self Help and Enablement)

Within the right conditions and local offer, through taking self responsibility, children, young people and families, actively participate in and are supported by their schools and communities; access available information, amenities, settings and services that are accessible to all to help themselves to raise awareness, develop skills and resilience and enable behaviour changes that will contribute to them being safe, well, prosperous and connected, without the need for interventions; actively engage with proactive, preventative, health promoting services and receive the benefits of early intervention and support to maximise their health, wellbeing and resilience, as well as improving health outcomes and reducing inequalities.

Within specific populations, schools, communities, community hubs and area wide

#### Targeted (Focused and Preventative)

Children, young people and families are entitled to equality of opportunity and through schools, individual agencies/hubs agency/locally based integrated working, children, young people and families are helped, supported and empowered to enable behaviour changes that will build resilience, enable self help and contribute to them being safe, well, prosperous and connected, preventing the need for specialist help.

Within specific populations, schools, communities, community hubs and area wide for those who seek out and/or are identified as requiring additional help via consultation / formulation

Within specific populations through targeted, intensive home visiting and evidence based interventions

#### Specialist (Protection)

Where there are serious concerns, through early, swift, creative, flexible and responsive agency involvement/integrated working, children, young people and families are helped, supported and empowered to protect themselves and enable behaviour changes around the whole family that will contribute to reducing harm, enabling the family to remain together and independent in their community, leading to them being safe, well, prosperous and connected.

Within specific populations, schools, communities, community hubs and area wide for those who are identified as requiring help to protect themselves and/or others from harm

Within specific populations through targeted, intensive home visiting and evidence based interventions

Enablers – Data, Intelligence, Workforce, Voice



### To recap - what is an Early Help Assessment?

The Early Help Assessment is a way of gathering information from a family and child and using it to decide on what type of support is needed, if any, to help. The assessment builds on the family's strengths and is voluntary. The assessment is used to help the child and family to achieve the best outcomes, ensuring everyone is involved that can offer to support to the family. The EH assessment ensures that the right support is given at the right time, as soon as needed.

### Further information

[Children's MARS policy and procedure for Early Help](#)

[Children's MARS website – Early Help](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)