



Who will have information about me and my family?

No-one will have information about you without your knowledge. You can also let us know if there is anybody you do not want information shared with. We will keep you informed about what we are doing and how we are working with others. Early Help is a voluntary process, and your engagement and consent are required for the best possible outcome to support you and your family.

There may be circumstances that might require more intense support or if we are concerned for the safety and wellbeing of an individual, we would then be required to notify Local Authority Social, and your case may be stepped up.

Social Care or Intensive Local Authority Early Help may also step a case down to the Early Help provision provided by the young person's education provider.

Early Help is available to students/apprentices under the age of 18yrs, in line with the local offer. However, other support and advice is available to those students/apprentices over the age of 18yrs.

CONTACT US

T: 01246 500688 (ext: 1688)
E: ccsafe@chesterfield.ac.uk



HOW WILL EARLY HELP
SUPPORT YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY?

What is Early Help?

Early Help is the term used by Local Authorities to describe an approach to providing early support to families at any stage of a child's life, when a problem or difficulty first arises. Early Help supports children, young people and their families to be happy, healthy and safe, as well as helping them to achieve their potential and increase their ability to manage life's challenges. Early Help is a process where everyone works together to support the needs of the child, young person and their family. The aim of Early Help is to provide the right support and interventions to build on people's strengths and resources to manage their own dilemmas, resolve their own difficulties and help build resilience for when problems arise in the future.

Why would I need Early Help?

There are many different reasons why a child, young person and their family might need Early Help. Not everyone is the same and we recognise these differences. Some examples include:

- Difficult relationships in the family
- Poor attendance at education provision
- Drug/alcohol misuse
- Emotional wellbeing
- Anti-social behaviour

How does Early Help work?

By identifying and building on your strengths as a family we can help and support you to find long term solutions to your issues, as well as developing your skills to help you manage any future challenges. We will bring together different people who will be able to offer the support you need. This could include; health teams, Youth Community Workers, SEND advisors, housing, and other key partners. There's no need to worry. While a lot of people may be working with you, there will be one key person who will support you and co-ordinate the help you need. It is important that you can build a relationship of trust with your Safeguarding Officer. They will be open, honest, and respectful to you, listen to your concerns and provide support and challenge when needed.

What is an Early Help Assessment (EHA)?

The EHA is a shared assessment for use across all children's services. It aims to help the early identification of children and young people's emerging needs, where a child and family would benefit from support from more than one agency (e.g. education, health, housing and police), and providing co-ordinated service provision to meet them.

The assessment is a family-based assessment; this means that each child's needs/strengths can be captured in one assessment.

How does it work?

Step 1 – Talk to you

Your Safeguarding Officer will ask about any problems and discuss what support might help. They will also want to know what is going well. They will complete your Early Help Assessment and together you can agree a plan. This assessment will have all the information needed, which means you will not need to keep telling your story to lots of different people.

Step 2 – The Plan

Your Safeguarding Officer will arrange a meeting with you and other people who might be able to help. At the meeting they will talk about the kind of support available and agree with you a solution-based action plan. This is called the Team Around the Family meeting (TAF). This plan will clearly set out who will do what and when it will be done by.

Step 3 – The Review

Everyone will come back together to see how things are going, and agree if there needs to be any changes. The TAF review meetings will happen every 6 weeks and will continue for as long as you need them, to ensure the support provided is making a difference to you and your family.