

Early Help and Safeguarding Pathway - Guidance for Practitioners

The aim of this guidance is to build on the Early Help and Intervention Framework by providing practitioners with an understanding of the pathway between Early Help and Children's Social Care.

This guidance is designed to strengthen the co-ordination of early help and ensure access to advice, support and decision-making is readily available to front-line staff working in early help settings across the partnership. It does not replace the responsibility of individual organisations in terms of their work with children, young people and families.

1. Any individual concerned about a child at risk of harm should continue to contact the centrally-based Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHASH), via the EHASH portal or telephone. To make an online portal referral, please complete the appropriate form which can found by following this link: <https://childrensportallive.hullcc.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/professional>
2. Referrals can be made into EHASH for targeted support, or Early Help for universal or additional support. All Early Help referrals need to have consent by the parent/carers agreed.
3. Any referrals received into EHASH are triaged by a Social Worker and depending upon the threshold are either referred on to the Early Help Hubs or progressed into children's social care.
4. Where referrals are received which do not need to be allocated to a social worker, the individual or family will be forwarded to Early Help. Universal and additional level support requests automatically are forwarded to Early Help. The Early Help referral officers will then contact the family to understand a bit more about the support needed, and then progress onto either an internal Hull City Council family support team, or to one of the Early Help partners, such as schools or Homestart.
5. Support for disabled children can be accessed in the same way through EHASH or Early Help and referrals are passed on to the most appropriate SEND Team, ie disability social care, LAFSS, Early Early Help SEND or KIDS.
6. If a contact received into EHASH progresses to social care assessment, and the decision is that the family needs early help, the Assessment Social Worker will step down the family to Early Help (see Step up Step Down process) and ensure that at a local level, arrangements have been made to provide the help the family need.
7. Where the referral relates to a young person, the EHASH will liaise with the targeted Youth Support Service to make sure that the young person receives help from the most appropriate service, depending on their needs. The walk in service for young people continues to operate from Kenworthy House.
8. This will mean that every referral will have a clear outcome that supports the family by either allocating a social worker, or by ensuring Early Help support is in place.

Early Help Co-ordination in Localities

The primary role of the local authority in Early Help is to ensure that effective co-ordination is in place, which means children, young people and families getting the right help at the right time in the right place.

Early Help co-ordination is designed to support professionals to identify and respond to concerns at as early a stage as possible.

The **Early Help Co-ordination team** will work closely with EHASH as described above.

Contacts

In each locality an Early Help Co-ordinator has responsibility for leading the development of the early help offer for the local authority.

North locality – Heather Barnes

West locality – Daemon Cartwright

East Locality – Justine Mortimer

A Family Hub in each locality has been designated as the **Locality Early Help Hub** which provides a base for a number of early help practitioners. The hubs themselves do not receive referrals, but will be able to provide advice to other practitioners across the partnership. For example;

- Advice and support to early help lead workers working with families
- Advice, support and coordination for professionals including schools and health services where there are emerging concerns about children and families, either through support in Team around the family meeting, Early Help Action Meetings, or telephone support.
- Lead the development of the early help offer and co-ordination role city-wide

The Locality Early Help Hubs are;

West locality - Priory Family Hub **t: 305770**

East locality - Acorns Family Hub **t: 708953**

North locality - Lemon Tree Family Hub **t: 828901**

Early Help Co-ordination team based in the Locality Early Help Hubs

There are a range of early help practitioners based at or working with the 'Hubs' including:

- Early Help Co-ordinator
- Early Help Team Co-ordinator (Family Hub)
- Early Help Family Support Workers and Senior Early Help Family Support Workers
- Early Help SEND Family Support Workers
- Parenting Practitioners
- Targeted Pregnancy Support Worker
- Young Carers Worker
- Healthy Lifestyle Staff
- Mind Mental Health staff
- DWP staff
- Citizens Advice Bureau staff
- Registrars

We offer a wide range of services, guidance, support and information at all of our Early Help Family Hubs across the City. Contact details, where to find us and opening times can be found by following the links for each Family Hubs Facebook page via the following link:

www.familyhubshull.org.uk