

ONE MINUTE GUIDE

Early Help and Prevention Service

April 2019

What is Early Help and Prevention Service?

It comprises a wide combination of services for children, young people aged 0-19 and their families, which respond to a range of needs up to and including targeted Tier 3 provision. Delivery is led by both professionals and trained volunteers at a variety of venues, including family homes, schools, community centres and the city's six Family Hubs.

Universal Services include Community Nurse-led Child Health Clinics and Health Reviews, volunteer-led Stay & Play Groups for children under 5, volunteer-led advice for parents/carers of those aged 5-19, Dadzclub sessions facilitated by the Parenting Network, breastfeeding peer support led by Breastfeeding Network volunteers and School Nurse/Child Health advice and support via the phone and/or drop-ins. School/Community Nurses also provide short bespoke interventions to address identified unmet health needs.

Specific provision for Children with Disabilities, Young Carers and LGBTQ young person also come under the remit of the Early Help and Prevention Service (please refer to separate One Minute Guides regarding these areas).

The targeted Tier 3 offer for 0-5 age group is led by Health Visitors, who undertake the Lead professional role for the family, which includes the provision of enhanced support via the ECHO programme.

The targeted Tier 3 offer for 5-19s is provided by the Early Help Teams, which include a number of Specialist family Support Workers. The latter are linked to specific locality teams, but are available to provide citywide Team around the Worker support. Specialist Areas include: parenting, substance misuse, education, housing, child emotional wellbeing and mental health, CSE/sexual health, parental mental health, loss and bereavement and complex families.

From April 2019, Early Help Social Workers, who line manage the complex families specialist workers, have been welcomed to the Early Help Teams, as part of a 12 month initiative aimed at strengthening the Tier 3 response, in order to reduce the number of cases that return/escalate to Tier 4.

Why is it important?

The Early Help and Prevention Service is a key component of PCC's Stronger Futures Strategy, which aims to empower families to both develop and sustain stronger futures for themselves. The range of provision within the Service's remit ensures that the 'right level of support is given at the right time and that families retain ownership of the process throughout. The wide range of provision offered by the Service, in addition to its strong links with schools ensures that a proportionate service response is maintained throughout.

The Early Help Teams in each locality play a major role in the ongoing development of the MATS and specifically within the continuous improvement of the locality Network, Operational and Family Hub meetings.

How do we do it?

There is open access to the universal service offer, details of which are available on the website and from the Family Hubs (see contact details below).

There are two routes for referrals into targeted Tier 3 services namely via MASH or Step Down from locality Social Care Teams. Referrals are received into the service are discussed at allocation meetings held twice a week. The allocation process involves matching worker skill base, experience and capacity to the needs identified within the referral. Line managers provide additional initial guidance at the outset of the intervention, as required. Restorative casework supervision is formally undertaken at months two and five of the intervention and a copy of such is linked to the case record.

Ad hoc case discussions take place as and when required and are logged on the case record. The case closure process ensures that all records are in place, identified needs have been addressed and that a robust handover/exit plan to colleagues at schools, or to the family themselves is in place.

Early Help interventions are 6 months duration for the majority of cases, although a 9 month intervention is available for more complex cases. Workers are able to request an extension to the Early Help intervention, should the circumstances require.

The Early Help Social Worker provides support to all members of the 0-19 Early Help teams, in order to strengthen plans, where cases are 'bubbling'.

For more information:

Portsmouth City Council website:

www.portsmouth.gov.uk

North Locality:

Edwina Brennan - Early Help & Prevention
Service Manager

Claire Blackshaw - Solent NHS Health Visiting
Clinical Team Co-ordinator

Carol Stevens - Solent NHS Health Visiting
ECHO Supervisor

Paulsgrove Family Hub 023 92385995,
Cheltenham Road, Paulsgrove, PO6 3PL.
Paulsgrovefamilyhub@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Northern Parade Family Hub 023 92660866,
Doyle Avenue, Hilsea, PO2 9NE.
NorthernParadefamilyhub@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Central Locality:

Gill Noble - Early Help & Prevention Service
Manager

Julia Wittcomb - Solent NHS Health Visiting
Clinical Team Co-ordinator

Tracy Fisher - Solent NHS Health Visiting
Clinical Team Co-ordinator

Buckland Family Hub 023 92733440, Turner
Road, Buckland, Po1 4PN.
Bucklandfamilyhub@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Landport Family Hub 023 92815005, 221
Arundel Street, Portsmouth PO5 4LP.
Landportfamilyhub@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Somerstown Family Hub 023 92821816,
Omega Street, Southsea, PO5 4LP.
Somerstownfamilyhub@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

South Locality:

Anthony Harper - Early Help & Prevention
Service Manager

Claire Moase - Solent NHS Health Visiting
Clinical Team Co-ordinator

Milton Park Family Hub 023 92827392, Perth
Road, Southsea, PO4 8EU.
Miltonfamilyhub@portsmouthcc.gov.uk