

getting it right for
**children,
young people and families**

Early Help and Safeguarding - 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 coordination 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 portal referral or telephone. To make an online portal referral, please complete the appropriate form which can be found by following this link: <https://childrensportallive.hullcc.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/professional>
2. All contacts into the portal are triaged by an EHASH Team Manager. Once a decision has been made, the Team Manager will direct a Social Worker to undertake tasks in order to gather further information to support appropriate decision making.
3. The Early Help Social Worker in EHASH will support the referring professionals and agencies to ensure that the family receives relevant help they need from universal and targeted services.
4. Support for disabled children can be accessed in the same way through EHASH and referrals are passed on to the Early Help SEND team co-located at Bellfield House with the Children's Disability Team.
5. If a contact received into EHASH progresses to a social care assessment and the decision is that the family needs Early Help involvement as a result of this assessment, 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.
6. Where self-referrals are received which do not need to be allocated to a social worker, the individual or family will be supported to access Early Help again via the Early Help Social Worker in EHASH.
7. Where the referral relates to a young person, the Early Help Social Worker in 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.

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.

getting it right for
**children,
young people and families**

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 Children's Centre 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 Children's Centre t: 305770

East locality - Acorns Childrens Centre t: 708953

North locality - Lemon Tree Children's Centre t: 828901

getting it right for
**children,
young people and families**

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 Hub Co-ordinator
- Early Help Team Co-ordinator (Children's Centres)
- Early Help Family Support Workers and Senior Early Help Family Support Workers
- Early Help Social Workers
- Parenting Practitioners
- Targeted Pregnancy Support Worker
- Young Carers Worker
- Access to Family Group Conferencing
- Health Lifestyle Staff
- DWP staff
- Citizens Advice Bureau staff
- Registrars

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

<http://www.hull.gov.uk/children-and-families/family-support/childrens-centres>