

Author Helen Hey

hhey@worcestershire.gov.uk



At the heart of everything we do

Early Help Pathway

Identification and decision on what response is needed

Professional observes or is informed that the child has a need

The child/young person and family have clear information about where

they can access support moving forward or if their needs change

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem appears, to stop it from getting worse. This could be at any point in a child's life, from birth to the teenage years. Early help involves: identification, assessment, planning, providing service(s) and working together to review the plan.

Throughout any work with children, young people and their families, where professionals have concerns or differences in opinion about the decisions or practice of others that they cannot resolve on their own, they can refer to the <u>Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board's Escalation Policy</u>.

Professional has a conversation their with line manager, safeguarding lead, Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) as applicable, to identify the way forward If the needs can be met by professional's own setting's early help offer, organise the support directly. For additional early help resources, including the Early Help in Worcestershire document, visit the early help webpages at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/earlyhelp **Completing an Early Help Assessment** Discuss needs with the child/young person and family and gain their consent to have conversations with other professionals involved Yes Identify other agencies currently involved and consider a multi-agency Request services meeting to inform the assessment from Early Help Professional completes an Early Help Assessment to identify the **Family Support** strengths and the needs of the family. by completing an Is there an online form at: additional www.worcesters identified Create a plan hire.gov.uk/ need (Level 2 • Using the assessment put a support plan together along with the requestfamilysup and 3) for child/young person and their family. Identify SMART actions to achieve port **Early Help** the outcomes or goals (for example, attend a parenting course). **Family** Continue Involve other agencies if additional needs are identified following the Support that supporting the assessment can't be met family and work If more than one agency is involved, agree who the lead professional by the with other will be (this may not be the person who wrote the assessment) professional professionals as Set a date to review the plan or any other necessary Share the plan with the professionals who attended the multi-agency service? meeting as well as the child/young person and family Read more about Level 2 Meet the needs in the plan or Level 3 Not sure? Everyone has a responsibility to carry out their agreed actions from the needs in the Speak to the Levels of **Early** Conversations can take place between meetings as required to Need Intervention progress the plan Guidance. **Family Support** team (Level 2) or **Targeted Family Review progress** Support team • Multi-agency meeting (or telephone call) every 6-12 weeks to review (Level 3) in your the plan. This might just be a conversation between a single agency local area for and the child/young person or family advice about The review is led by the lead professional your request The lead professional and other agencies involved review whether there has been 1) positive change 2) no change/improvement or 3) deterioration or concerns increased The decision is made to continue as is/amend the plan/to end the plan as the needs are fully met, or to end the plan and a single agency will meet the need or that only universal services are required If the plan continues, further reviews take place If the plan is not progressing: review and update the assessment, develop a new plan and consider who else may need to be involved The review can be brought forward if the plan is not progressing or the needs escalate End of the plan When the child/young person, family and multi-agency meeting agree that needs have been met, the plan will end and all those involved EH Pathway v3 · March 2019 · should be informed

Child is at risk of significant harm

If you believe that a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm, contact the Police on 999.

If you want to refer a child or young person to Children's Social Care in an emergency, contact the Family Front Door on 01905 822666 (out of hours 01905 768020).

If the concern is not immediate, use the online form to raise the concern:

worcestershire.gov.uk/ childrenreferral

Escalation of need

If a family is already receiving support from Early Intervention Family Support or Targeted Family Support and there are escalating concerns, please refer to the Step Up (Transfer of Need) for Professionals process accessed within the Levels of Need Guidance.