

Who is involved in the Early Help Assessment?

The Somerset Early Help Assessment has been agreed by all professionals who work with children and young people as a good way of helping families explain what help they feel they need. This means that G.P.s, health visitors, schools, Children's Centres, and housing associations, to name a few, will be able to work with you in this way.

The Early Help Assessment is your document and will help professionals understand what you feel is working well in your family and what you might need help with. It can also be used to access support for you and your child from many different services, so you do not have to fill in other referral forms.



We hope that you will want to take part in the Early Help Assessment to get the support you need for your child. However, if you don't want to get involved, you can ask for the process to stop. Please be aware that this could mean that the support you are asking for is more difficult to access.

Contact:

**Early Help Assessment
Hub:
01823 355803**

IT IS YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR ASSESSMENT!

This leaflet can be made available in other languages and formats upon request. Please contact the Early Help Assessment Hub for more information.

Early Help Assessment: Information for parents and carers

What does this mean for your family?

The Early Help Assessment can help when your child needs extra support. You and your child take part in the assessment and are involved in planning the support you need.



A message for parents and carers

Sometimes your child or young person may need extra support and the services who work with you and your child will want to find solutions for you all as soon as possible.

We believe a little bit of help at the right time makes a big difference. We want to help you find solutions to small problems before they turn into big ones, and we do this with an Early Help Assessment.

What is an Early Help Assessment ?

The Early Help Assessment finds out about the strengths and difficulties your child and family may have and explores the best way to help, it's a bit like doing a puzzle. First, we need to have all the pieces before we can see the whole picture.

With your consent, an Early Help Assessment will gather your story and be shared with professionals who can help. By doing this you should only need to tell your story once.

If we do not feel we can cover all of your needs we will discuss this with you, and with your permission, share the information with an agreed team of professionals who we believe will be able to support you.

What happens next?

Based on the information you and your child provide, the worker can begin to complete an action plan with you and all those who can help your child. This may take place straight away or the worker may need to make some enquiries and contact you again.

If there are needs which could be met by a number of different services then a 'Team around the Child' meeting will be held.

You will be given a copy of the Early Help Assessment and will be told who will see it, where it is stored and how it will be used. Normally only those who need to know about your child will receive the information.



Older children may feel better able to discuss their situation on their own with the worker. A young person's wish to keep information confidential from parents may be respected by the worker where this is in the young person's best interests.

What is a Team around the Child?

A Team around the Child (TAC) is the group of professionals who support you and your child, regularly meeting with you to review the action plan. The meetings should be at a time and place you feel comfortable and will be held roughly every 6-8 weeks.

What is a Lead professional?

You and your child will have a key input into who should be the Lead Professional, this will be agreed at the first TAC meeting. They should be the person with the closest working relationship with you. This person will keep you informed, listen to your views and support you. They will ensure your action plan is being reviewed properly.

Confidentiality

The information you provide will only be shared with your consent. However, there may be times when the people working with you need to share information, for example;

- When they need to find out urgently if a child is at risk of harm
- To help a child who is at risk of harm
- When an adult is at risk of harm
- To help prevent or detect a serious crime.