

Place Based Approach to Early Help for Children and Families in Durham

**Corporate Parenting Panel
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Background

- **Durham's Strategic Partnership Approach to Early Help**
- **National Supporting Families Programme, known in Durham as 'Stronger Families'**
 - **Between April 2015 and September 2021, Durham has 'Turned Around' 5851 families**



The Early Help System

Acute & Targeted

Universal

Community Support



Early Help is defined 'as the total support that improves a family's resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse', which requires all partners within the early help system to embed better ways of collaborative working to mainstream the 'whole family' outcome focussed approach.

Durham's Early Help Approach

- ✓ **'Whole' family working**
- ✓ **Draw on our shared assets across the Early Help System**
- ✓ **Response proportionate to need**
- ✓ **Co-ordinated multi-agency approach**
- ✓ **One whole family assessment and multi-agency Child and Family Plan**
- ✓ **Outcome focussed- use of a multi agency 'Family Outcome Framework'**
- ✓ **Empower families and build family resilience**
- ✓ **Better connect families to their natural networks and communities**
- ✓ **Strength based practice approach (Signs of Safety/Wellbeing)**
- ✓ **An effective, 'inclusive for all' Early Help offer**



Place Based

- **Not one size fits all - recognises the uniqueness of local communities**
- **Locality Early Help Conversations – right support at the right time, best use of collective assets including the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)**
- **Utilise local intelligence and data – Early Help Themes**
- **'New' Team Around the School (TAS)**
- **Prevention and Early Help Forums (re-established 2022)**
- **Engaging the Workforce and Service Users**



Support for Children in Care and Carers

- Kinship Carers are represented at the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) Working Group
- Post Adoption Support Pathway
- Special Guardian Review Panel – Early Help representation
- Helping Families Tackle Poverty –
 - ✓ [Helping families manage their money](#)
 - ✓ Household Support Fund
 - ✓ Food Hampers
 - ✓ County Durham Fun and Food programme (including free swim sessions)



Conclusion and Next Steps

- **The Early Help System offers integrated, whole family, outcome focussed support delivered at the earliest opportunity utilising local support wrapped around a family.**
- **The Prevention and Early Help Partnership (PEHP) will continue to work with partners and service users to better understand the Early Help needs of all families and to influence and shape service delivery to improve support offered.**
- **Corporate Parenting Panel asked to note the place based approach to early help for families including children in care.**
- **Elected Members can support by promoting the services and resources available which include links with other local services and voluntary groups, help with finances and Fun with Food programme.**





Any questions to

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