

Health and Wellbeing Board

5 November 2014

Early Help Strategy



Report of Carole Payne, Head of Children's Services, Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to introduce the final copy of The Early Help Strategy to the Health and Wellbeing Board (Attached at Appendix 2)

Background

2. The Early Help Strategy sets out our commitment to provide Early Help, Intervention and Prevention in County Durham.
3. Durham's Early Help Strategy is inclusive. It is a strategy for all; for all of our colleagues, for all of our partners and for all of our children, young people and families.
4. The Early Help Strategy shares the vision of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Plan.
5. The Early Help Strategy has three ambitions:
 - We will work collaboratively - Early Help will be Everyone's business
 - Children, young people and families will get the right help at the right time
 - We will provide help that we know works

The Journey

6. The Early Help Strategy has been subject to much discussion and wide consultation with partners across the County Durham Partnership. These views and feedback has enabled us to be confident that the strategy is consistent with partners' ambitions of ensuring children; young people and adults who are parents and carers get the right support at the earliest opportunity.
7. The Think Family Partnership has worked on the draft Early Help Strategy to ensure their individual services key principles and objectives were reflected.

8. Workshops were held and well attended by colleagues from across partner agencies in Durham.
9. Alongside the consultation workshops senior management meetings, team meetings, reference groups, 1:1s, Community of Learning Groups, partnerships and forums across Durham have hosted Early Help Consultation sessions.
10. An effective Early Help strategy is not static. This strategy and its implementation will be regularly reviewed and developed. The development of the strategy is the beginning of its journey and we hope its shared vision and ambitions and the commitment to 'getting it right' continues in its implementation and governance across our partnerships.

Recommendations

11. The Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
 - Receive regular updates on its implementation and success

**Contact: Rachel Hirst-Dean, Think Family Services Strategic Manager,
Durham County Council, 03000 268 375**

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

No implications at this stage

Staffing

Workforce Development for all partners

Risk

No implications at this stage

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No implications at this stage

Accommodation

No implications at this stage

Crime and Disorder

No implications at this stage

Human Rights

No implications at this stage

Consultation

No implications at this stage

Procurement

No implications at this stage

Disability Issues

No implications at this stage

Legal Implications

No implications at this stage