



Early Help Assessment

A guide for parents, children and young people



What is an early help assessment?

Sometimes children and their families might need some extra help, this might come from a range of different organisations, all working together.

An Early Help Assessment is a way of noting down what is going well in your family, what the worries are and what needs to happen to help things improve. Together you will then agree the best way to make this happen; this will be written into an Early Help Assessment Plan.

You might need help in one or more of the following areas:

- School, education or work based training.
- Home and life relationships.
- Physical and or mental health.
- Work, finances or housing.
- Domestic violence or abuse.
- Crime or anti-social behaviour.

If you have worries about your family, then ask a professional (e.g your health visitor) who's working with you or your children for an Early Help Assessment. Also a professional connected to your family who has concerns may suggest to you that together you do an Early Help Assessment to see how your family can be supported.



Information for parents about how an early help assessment works.

What will happen?

Your lead professional will go through these steps with you:

Step one - You will talk to the professional (e.g school Family Liaison Officer, Health Visitor or Early Years practitioner) working with you about what is going well in your family, what the worries are, and what needs to happen to improve the situation. The professional will contact Children's Reception team to gain permission to proceed and check the assessment is at the right level of support and that there isn't another assessment already in place.

Step two - Your professional will then complete an Early Help Assessment with you, this will be around your whole family's strengths and worries. Your professional will get a team of people together, who will help plan how best to support your family, this will remind everyone about what is going to happen, how it will be done it and by when.

Step three - You can choose who you want to be your Lead Professional (LP). They will support you and make sure the team keeps their promises.

Step four - Your plan will be reviewed regularly (every 6 - 12 weeks) to make sure that things are improving for your family. Professional (LP). They will support you and make sure the team keeps their promises.

The whole process will take a little time, but we can only do it with your permission.

In addition to an Early Help Assessment, your Lead Professional can also make a referral for your family to receive a lot of hands on support from the family support workers in the **Supporting Families Programme** for up to 12 months.

If you would like to request an Early Help Assessment please speak to your Midwife, Health Visitor, Early Years setting, School or any other organisation that might be helping you at the moment.



If you are concerned about a child's safety or welfare please contact Isle of Wight MASH on **01983 823436**. If a child is in immediate danger or at serious risk of harm, you are advised to continue to call the police on 999.

For more information please visit **www.iow.gov.uk/earlyhelpassessment**

If you have difficulty in understanding this document please contact us on (01983) 821000 and we will do our best to help you.