



Early support for families

How we can help...

Introduction

All professionals that work with children, young people and families are responsible for listening to your concerns and worries and work closely with you to make sure you and your family get the right support at the right time.

At Wyndham we care about the whole family and want to use our knowledge and expertise to give families the tools to make a change to support their future.

We want to help you

Every family face challenge at some time or another. Early Help means working with you and your family so that small problems don't become bigger.

Why would I want Early Help?

Lots of reasons!

- It could be that you're worried about your own or your child's health, development or behaviour, or how things are going at school.
- Perhaps because you are caring for a disabled child or you are a young person caring for other people or maybe you've had bereavement in the family that's made life a real challenge.
- It may be that you're worried about money or housing and how that is affecting your family.
- Maybe you or your child/family is affected by domestic abuse, drugs, alcohol or crime.
- In these instances (and many more) Early Help can be a way of supporting your family.

Where can I get Early Help?

If you feel you and your family might need support, you can ask one of our Family Support Team about our early help offer.



What will happen when I ask for Early Help?

One of our Family Support Team will talk with you about the problems you're experiencing. They will ask what help and support you think you might need.

After this conversation they may suggest completing an Early Help Assessment as this will help them to refer your case to other organisations who can provide the support that is required.

Stop small problems getting bigger

The Early Help Assessment

An Early Help Assessment (EHA) is nothing to be worried about. It can start with a conversation to work out how to help you stop small problems turning into big problems. It is good to talk about things that are going well as well as the things you are finding a challenge. Together we will form the EHA

Voice of the Child

It is really important that children's views are included in the EHA. With your consent a trusted adult will talk with your child to capture their wishes and feelings.

What happens next?

What happens next will be different for every family or young person, but you will plan to identify ways in which you can be supported to resolve the problems you have identified.

Vulnerable Child Meeting (VCM)

If you decide that you'd like some help your EHA will be submitted to the Vulnerable Child Meeting (VCM). At the VCM people from different organisations come together to discuss how your case can be supported by different professionals.

Team Around the Family (TAF)

Following VCM a Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting will be arranged. A TAF brings together people you know or who can offer support. Together, they can help you and your family find ways to solve any problems you are having.

- You will be made aware of the TAF meeting and invited to attend
- Things only happen if you agree with them.

The TAF will take place in school, the Lead Professional will share information with your consent and identify how different agencies can work together with you to help to support you and your family

What is a Lead Professional?

Someone who has been chosen to make sure you receive the right support. The EHA will help determine who is in the best position to be the Lead Professional based on the nature of the support that is required.

- The Lead Professional ensures:
- you know what is happening
- they listen to your worries and ideas

If the Lead Professional requires additional advice they will contact the Local Authority Early Help Advisor, whose role is to support the Early Help process. The EHA Advisor will be able to provide information about what organisations are in the best position to support the needs of your family.

It is important to remember that you will consent to referral to the Early Help pathways that are available. If you choose not to consent we will continue to monitor your child in school and we will speak to you again if we feel that support is required.