

What is an Early Help Assessment?

Sometimes children, young people, adults and families need some additional support. We use the Early Help Assessment (EHA) to assess the needs of each family and make sure they get the help you need as quickly as possible. The process is voluntary, they can choose whether to be involved and they can withdraw from the process at any time.

Usually we meet 1:1 with parents and fill out the form online. Parents **must sign the form** or it will not be accepted by the Locality Team.

Benefits of Early help

- The Early Help Assessment (EHA) is a shared assessment used by different agencies who work with families. Once it has been completed, and with family agreement, the EHA form will be shown to other workers and services that may be able to offer advice and support. This means families will not need to repeat information to lots of different people.
- Following the assessment, one person will be identified to be the Lead Professional. This is often the School! They will try to get the family the support they need to address the needs and concerns of all members of the family. They will coordinate the work with other professionals and the family, so they have one main point of contact.
- The Lead Professional will make sure everyone is working to the same plan, working together and sharing information. This is facilitated through Team Around the Family meetings (TAF) and also in some cases placing indicators on service provider organisations' databases so they are aware to work with the Lead Professional. We have a central number we can ring to see if a family has an EHA already before we start on.

Through the Early Help Hub we get access to;

- Family workers that work with families on a short term plan
- Specialist teachers from the SEND services who advice teachers on how to support SEN pupils
- Paediatrician referrals
- Access to any outside agencies