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Help**

# **Early Help Strategy 2019-2023**

## **Review of delivery and Impact one year on**

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

*Working for a **brighter future** together*

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# Background

- In March 2019 we designed and launched the Early Help Strategy and action plan with partner agencies
- We agreed that the Strategy would include the focus on Locality Working, our Troubled Families Recovery Plan and embed Signs of Safety
- The Strategy was endorsed by all Partners and approved by O&S and Health & Wellbeing Board
- This presentation describes a review of activity delivered in line with the ambition of the action plan after one year of delivery



## Priority 1: The Partnership has the right infrastructure to support the development of early help services

What we said we would do	What we have achieved
Establish the 3 Early Help Practitioners in Localities to align early help practice with the Signs of Safety model	Three high quality workers been in post since September 2019 delivering direct support to workers across agencies
Establish new Locality partnership through local community networks	Three locality partnership sessions delivered three times by March
Ensure the Early Help Together Group membership is maintained and partners are challenged to engage effectively	Board refreshed and membership increased to engage all partners across sectors
Establish regular multi-agency meetings on a thematic basis to reflect on and develop services	Thematic Locality sessions well attended by over 500 professionals
Develop school clusters to facilitate information sharing	Maintained schools clusters established in Autumn term

## Priority 2: Children and families get the right service at the right time: all partners understand levels of need and referral pathways

What we said we would do	What we have achieved
Refresh agency knowledge about early help services that are available in local communities and referral pathways	Multi agency locality Directories established and shared via Locality workshops
Review refresh and retrain agencies on the step up and step down procedures across the levels of need	Step up step down procedures relaunched in November and monitored across agencies
Empower and enable agencies to feel the confidence to intervene/get involved early	Agencies, particularly schools, Health Visitors and Childcare providers report more confidence delivering assessments with families
Strengthen our Early Help offer to vulnerable groups of children, such as care leavers who are parents and children who are home educated or on part-time timetables	Direct shared planning meetings well establish to track the support needs and plans of those children particularly Children Missing Education

### Priority 3: Understand the training need required, to ensure that our practitioners are enabled to co-produce high quality assessments and plans

What we said we would do	What we have achieved
Review the impact of the new Early Help assessments and planning process	In Quarter 3 we saw a 26% shift in assessments being led by Partners beyond the Council
Introduce good planning and recording training skills across agencies with a locality focus	Initial 3 sessions of recording training being delivered to EH teams to focus on capturing analysis and using SOS language principles
Support local delivery teams to reflect on and deepen their Signs of Safety practice through observation and support within multi-agency group supervision	Group Supervision promoted through the locality sessions delivered and an uptake in attendance at locality group supervision sessions
Review the effectiveness and impact of the Early Help Locality Practice Lead role pilot and expand/mainstream what works	Roles of the LSO's have been extended until June 2020 with a view to mainstream posts in to the EH structure

## Priority 4: We understand the quality of our services and act on this to improve outcomes for children

What we said we would do	What we have achieved
Develop and re-launch multi-agency Early Help Audits with the new audit tool	New Audit tool designed and tested third set of multi-agency audits taking place in March 2022. Learning fed back to the EH Board
Refine and improve our multi-agency early help performance scorecard	Scorecard refreshed and indicators reported to the Board
Develop a feedback survey to gain feedback on the quality of our services and the experiences from children, young people and their families	Family Survey delivered in September 19 with exceptional positive finding for EH cases
Seek views of practitioners through audits, frontline visits and surveys	Front line visits well underway. Feedback from front line workers captured and reflected back to managers



**Priority 5: We understand the needs of children and families in Cheshire East, and we have the right range of services to meet these that can be accessed locally**

What we said we would do	What we have achieved
Review the range of programmes and interventions available in Cheshire East by levels of need and locality	Refreshing Live Well site to make the menu of support clearer
Develop easily accessible and effective ways of communicating with our children and families	Established improved use of words and pictures in capturing wishes and feelings – evidenced by the OFSTED ILACS inspection
Challenge and improve how we involve children and young people in the development of services	Participation services enabling young people to be involved in staff recruitment, service design and reviews

## Priority 6: Our workforce is equipped with the knowledge and skills to achieve improved outcomes for children

What we said we would do	What we have achieved
Review the Early Help Assessment training offer	Training offer has been reviewed, recording training rolled out for Early Help staff in Cheshire East Family Service
Explore technical solutions to facilitate Live Well information via smart phones and other mobile devices	Director of Early Help on Live Well site review Board
Continue to support teams and partners with using Signs of Safety practice, and request bespoke training and workshops as required	Signs of safety training functions extended across the service to include Locality Support Officers  SoS training programme mapped out for 20/21 on a monthly basis



# Next Steps

- An Extension of the Troubled Families Programme for 20/21 – we are 2<sup>nd</sup> best performer in North West
- An agreement to include key transformation action within our action plan
- A refresh of year one actions and refocus on what needs to happen next in April 20
- Consider aligning all new contracts for children in line with the locality model
- Continue to roll out locality workshops for multi-agency staff across North Middle South of the Borough
- Review how Early Help Management arrangements support integrated working later in the year

# Questions

