



Early Help Forums

Dear all

There is now an Early Help Strategy in place and all stakeholders will contribute so that it will be a multi-agency Early Help Strategy. This is currently being completed by the Partnership & Prevention Subgroup. It was agreed that the Early Help Forum needed to be reinvigorated and to restart. They are currently being held on a fortnight basis. OFSTED raised this as good practice

Who are the members of the Early Help Forums:

- Family Partnership Team Manager (Chair)
- Family Case Work Team Manager
- Assessment Care Planning Assistant Team Manager (Children Social Care)
- Health Lead for Health Visitors and School Nurses
- Safeguarding Information & Compliance Officer (Education)
- MVDA for voluntary sector representation
- CAMHS Lead
- YOS
- Troubled Families
- Early Intervention Coordinator (Police)

The Purpose of the Early Help Forum:

- To have collaborative conversations between Agencies to ensure that families are getting the ***right help at the right time from the right service***.
- Regular multi-agency group supervision on cases using an evidence based model of practice (Signs of Safety and a Restorative Approach). This is to help Agencies who might be offering Early Help to families but struggling for a variety of reasons.

- Ensures contributions from all participants, and effectively identifies the range of risks, protective factors and unknowns which underpin a multi-agency discussion about level of risk and thresholds in respect of any families that you may be concerned about.
- Restorative approach for appropriate evidence based escalations to Stronger Families (level 3) or Children Social Care (Level 4).
- Information, Advice and Guidance to partners who are Lead Practitioners offering early help to families if they remain the lead to explore other ways of engaging families where there is disguised compliance, non-engagement or neglect.
- Disputes on Step Downs from Children Social Care to Partners can be resolved offering solutions/alternatives.

How can I request to bring a case to the Early Help Forum?

Contact Ann Wilson, Admin Officer for Family Partnership Team on 01642 728080 or email on ann_wilson@middlesbrough.gov.uk

You will receive a Signs of Safety Form to complete on the family to present to the Forum. Do not worry if you need guidance on completing this. Please contact us and someone from the Family Partnership Team will be in touch to help you. You can also include My Family Plan if you have completed one.

If you have any queries you can email me on john_scadden@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Kind regards,

John Scadden,

Family Partnership Team Manager.