

Early Help

Most children and families are resilient and thrive, knowing where to go for help and support when needed. But equally, any family or individual can experience difficulties and sometimes people need extra help to see them through challenging times. Professionals need to be alert to the signs of adversity and stress, and certain specific additional vulnerabilities that may increase the need for early help.

The term Early Help is used to describe the process of acting early and as soon as possible to tackle problems and issues emerging for children, young people and their families. Effective help may be needed for at any point in a child or young person's life, and includes:

- **help early in life** (with young children including pre-natal interventions)
- **help early in the development of an emerging or existing problem** (with children and young up to the age of 19, or 25 with a disability)

Early Help is intervening early and as soon as possible to tackle problems emerging for children, young people and their families, or with a population most at risk of developing problems. It is about offering help to children and families before any problems are apparent and in providing help when low level problems emerge.

When early help is needed, we know that families want help from people and professionals that they know and trust. The One Family Approach gives the permissions for professionals, including those working with adult family members, to act early and provide the help that is needed.

In line with the One Family Approach, professionals should seek to enable families to find solutions, based upon their strengths, to improve outcomes and be independent from services.

Professionals should know when and how to make a plan for a child and their family, when they should access further help and support from their manager or partner agencies, and when to refer to social work services in line with the specialist level of need which is outlined in the [One Family Approach – Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire document](#).

Once an Early Help Assessment has been completed you are required to submit an Early Help Assessment front sheet - complete the online Early Help Assessment form front sheet. [Early Help Assessment](#)

Please note - Early Help is a preventative approach to supporting vulnerable families at the earliest opportunity. Where a person has concerns about a child or young person who may be suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm a discussion should be immediately undertaken with Children's services to discuss these concerns (01724 296500)

The principles that underpin North Lincolnshire's Early Help offer for families are outlined in the [One Family Approach – Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire document](#)