

Procedures and Guidance

Early Help

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If in doubt – seek advice and contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub: 01482 395500

1. Introduction

This guidance is for everyone who works with children and young people and their families the East Riding of Yorkshire. It is about the way we can all work together, share information and take a child centred approach.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) sets out a clear expectation that “providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child’s life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Early help can also prevent further problems arising, for example, if it is provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care. Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

- Identify children and families who would benefit from early help;
- Undertake an assessment of the need for early help; and
- Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child. Local authorities, under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, have a responsibility to promote inter-agency cooperation to improve the welfare of children.”

2. Principles of Early Help

The following principles of early help should be read alongside the ERSCB Procedures: Threshold Guidance for Early Help, Targeted and Specialist or Statutory Support.

- Intervene early to tackle any problems as soon as they emerge. For children who need additional help, every day matters;
- The child should be at the centre. They must be listened to and have their voices heard;
- Assessments should be holistic and evidence based
- Be clearly focused on outcomes for the child.

3. Identifying children and families who would benefit from early help

Effective early intervention and prevention services play a crucial role in determining the positive outcomes for children, young people and families most at risk of developing problems. Professionals working with children, young people and families have a responsibility to identify the symptoms and triggers of abuse and neglect, to share that information and work together to provide children and young people with the help they need.

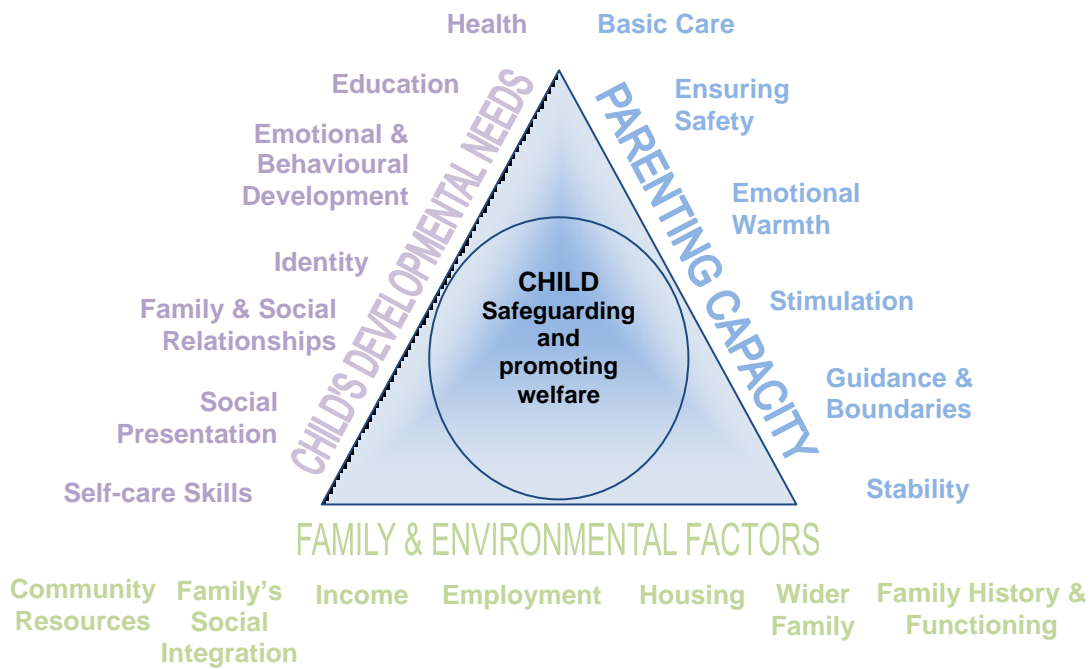
The East Riding Safeguarding Children Board provide a range of training courses with a view to enabling practitioners to develop their knowledge and skills in identifying and responding early to abuse and neglect, as well as sharing the latest research regarding the most effective forms of intervention.

Please follow the link to access the [ERSCB Training Page](#).

4. Early Help Assessment

Assessing the needs of a child or young person requires a systematic and purposeful approach. The Early Help Assessment (previously known as the Common Assessment Framework or CAF) process gives agencies working with children and young people a common language to understand both the needs of the child/young person and what is happening to them, using three domains:

- the developmental needs of the child
- the parental capacity (or caregiver capacity) to meet the child’s needs
- the impact of the wider family and environmental factors on both parenting capacity and the child’s development.



The purpose of the Early Help Assessment (EHA) is to identify a child’s needs early, so that targeted multi-agency early help services can be provided in response.

If professionals identify concerns with a child/family but are unsure how to respond, an EHA can help by identifying additional/unmet needs.

The EHA requires the consent of families. If parents and/or the child do not consent to an EHA, then the person undertaking the assessment should make a judgment as to whether, without help, the needs of the child/young person will escalate. If so, a referral into local authority children's social care may be necessary.

Further information on the EHA process, Team Around the Family, possible questions to ask when completing an EHA and information sharing and consent, including all forms can be accessed at:

<http://www2.eastriding.gov.uk/council/working-with-our-partners/caring-for-children/early-help-assessment/>

If you need further advice on completing an EHA, contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH) on: Tel: (01482) 395500 or Fax: (01482) 395530.

Once received, the contact will then be screened to determine the most appropriate response to the identified needs including:

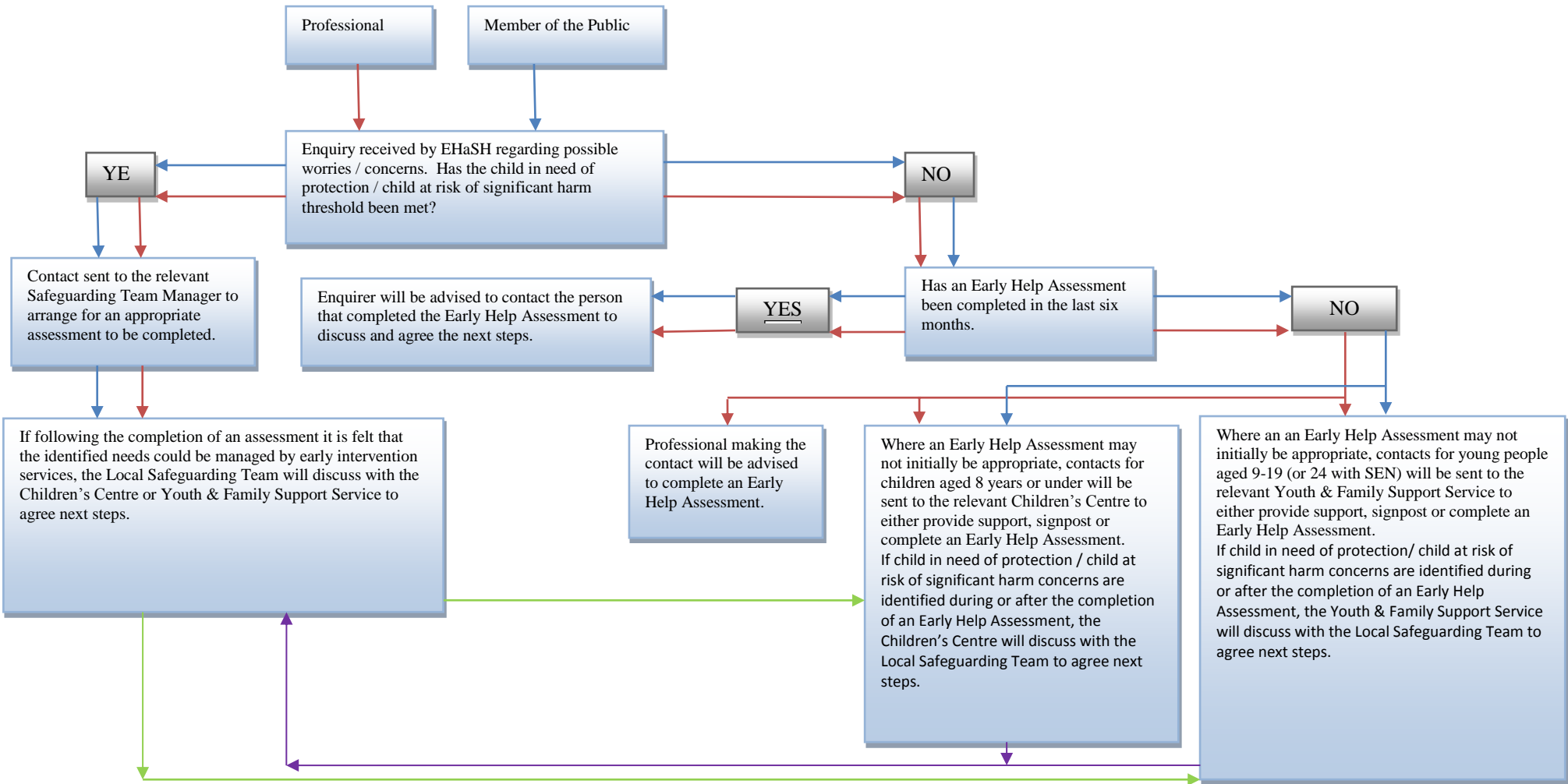
- Signposting on to Children’s Centres, Youth & Family Support and other services.
- Early, co-ordinated use of the Early Help Assessment (EHA), Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings, Lead Professional role.
- Fast tracking child protection concerns or other complex family situations that might require an immediate safeguarding response.

This service is available:

9am – 5:00pm **Monday to Thursday**
 9am – 4:30pm **Friday**

The flow chart overleaf shows the process to be followed once an early help assessment has been forwarded to EHaSH.

Enquiries to the Early Help & Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH)



KEY: Professional (Red arrow) Member of the Public (Blue arrow) Enquiry from Safeguarding to Children's Centre / YFS (Green arrow) Enquiry from Children's Centre / YFS to Safeguarding (Purple arrow)

When a child is referred to the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub, referrers should include any information they have on the child's developmental needs and the capacity of the child's parents or carers to meet those needs. This information may be included in any assessment, including the EHA, which may have been carried out prior to a referral into Local Authority Children's Social Care. Where an early help assessment has already been undertaken it should be used to support a referral to local authority children's social care, however this is not a prerequisite for making a referral. The contact process is outlined in Appendix 1.

5. Information sharing and consent

Working Together 2015 states "effective sharing of information between professionals and local agencies is essential for effective identification, assessment and service provision. Early sharing of information is the key to providing effective early help where there are emerging problems. At the other end of the continuum, sharing information can be essential to put in place effective child protection services."

Early help assessments require the consent of families. If parents and/or the child (if age appropriate) do not consent to an early help assessment, then the lead professional should make a judgment as to whether, without help, the needs of the child will escalate. If so, a referral into Local Authority Children's Social Care may be necessary.

If you are, at any time, concerned that a child has suffered significant harm or is likely to do so, you must call the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH) on Tel. 01482 395500 (out of hours Tel. 01377 241273).

Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protection of children. No professional should assume that someone else will pass on information which they think may be critical to keeping a child safe. If a professional has concerns about a child's welfare and believes they are suffering or likely to suffer harm, then they should share the information with the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub.

Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers (2008) supports frontline practitioners, working in child or adult services, who have to make decisions about sharing personal information on a case by case basis. The guidance can be used to supplement local guidance and encourage good practice in information sharing.

Guidance can be found at the East Riding of Yorkshire Council website:

www.eastriding.gov.uk/council/working-with-our-partners/caring-for-children/information-sharing/

6. Early help services in the East Riding

Children's Centres provide a wide range of support and advice for local families, acting as a one stop shop from pregnancy through to a child's fifth birthday. Children's Centres operate through 16 established centres and outreach venues. They are also used as a local hub for other agencies and services and work with health colleagues to deliver the healthy child programme; have links with Job Centre Plus to provide parents with access to employment support and advice; link with childcare and early education providers to support families to access the free entitlement to early education for three and four year olds and disadvantaged two year olds; work closely with social workers and other partners to provide seamless packages of support for our most vulnerable young children and their families. Children's Centres are currently extending the age range of children they work with to include those aged five to eight years.

Childcare and free early educational entitlement is available through a range of settings including childminders, pre-schools, day nurseries, independent schools, maintained nurseries and local authority settings. Local authority support and training to all providers helps to promote high quality childcare and early learning, available to all children. Childcare practitioners are able to work effectively in the early identification of children and families' needs. Free early education is offered to all 3 and 4 year olds and the most economically disadvantaged two year olds for 15 hours per week in quality settings. Funding is also available for shorter term and emergency

Contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub on (01482) 395500

childcare placements to families in need. These all play a vital role in the early identification of additional needs of both children and families.

Early Support work with families of babies and young children with special educational needs and or disabilities (SEND) and their parents and can also offer advice practitioners supporting them such as childcare providers. Early Support is a national programme designed to bring services together to offer better co-ordinated, high quality care to families. In the East Riding a panel, made up of a group of professionals representing services across education, health and social care, identify children under 5 yrs with health needs, SEN or a disability needing specialist support, oversee referrals to other agencies and monitor the progress of cases.

Portage is an educational service for pre-school children with additional needs and their families and works in partnership with parents to help them to teach their child new skills. In addition to home visits, Portage Workers and Portage Volunteers run small groups so that children can further develop their skills alongside other children – the groups also provide an opportunity for parents to meet other parents.

The Families Information Service Hub (FISH) - provides free and impartial information to families and the people who support them, and operates as a single point of contact giving details of services in East Riding for children and young people aged 0-20. FISH is a universal service offering targeted services through LOOK AHEAD Parent Partnership service and childcare brokerage.

Youth and Family Support works with young people from 9 to 18, when they are at risk of negative outcomes potentially affecting a successful transition to adulthood. The support offered is wide ranging, from those needing low level, early support through to those who display complex needs. Each locality within the East Riding has a dedicated Youth and Family Support Team.

East Riding Voluntary Action Service (ERVAS)- have been commissioned by the local authority to support voluntary and community groups in East Riding which deliver positive activities to children and young people aged 0-19 (24 with additional needs)and their families.

East Riding has over 1,000 voluntary and community groups working with children, young people and families, offering a wide range of early intervention and preventative support through provision of universal activities such as sport, play, art and uniformed organisations, often offering additional support to those with specialist or other needs requiring targeted approach. Services cover the whole of the geographic area and are often well positioned in both rural and urban areas to offer information, advice and early support to individuals from isolated or harder to reach communities.

Public Health - activity and commissioned services includes a range of initiatives designed to improve the health and wellbeing of children from an early stage, backed up by needs assessment. Services may be universal, but may have a focus on people with the greatest need or be aimed at particular groups. For instance, campaigns are in place to reduce smoking in pregnancy and to increase breast feeding, and Bridlington is being particularly targeted for smoking in pregnancy as a result of the needs assessment. Work to tackle obesity and increase physical activity is developing into healthy family and healthy schools programmes. The commissioned work of the school nurse service is designed to be health improving and preventative. Other activities that contribute to early intervention include mental health promotion and work on substance misuse.

Culture and Information Services - offer a range of opportunities to engage young people and their families in positive activities and experiences designed to meet their needs, such as being more active, enjoying reading and promoting healthier eating through school meals.

We work with young people, and their families, who are at risk of negative outcomes that could potentially affect their development. We have a preventative approach using targeted support aimed at those with low to high level needs. This approach is planned in partnership with other services that are also supporting these families.

Contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub on (01482) 395500

Humber Fire and Rescue Service - currently carries out a wide range of prevention activities with children and young people. There is a dedicated Learning Centre which produces teaching packages for key stages 1,2 and 3 and also arson awareness packages for secondary schools and academies. Operational crews and dedicated Community Safety teams carry out fire safety awareness sessions within schools and community groups and at fire stations across the Service. The Firesetters program is aimed at children who have been playing with fire to highlight its dangers and prevent re-occurrence. The service also runs several BTEC level 2 Fire & Rescue Services in the Community courses for various age groups. Other courses and schemes run include the Princes Trust 12 week programme and the National Citizenship Scheme.

East Riding of Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group – commissions a range of universal and targeted early intervention services. Examples include a pilot programme in Cottingham which includes developing an integrated pathway covering antenatal to 5 months post delivery.

The CCG, and its successor commissioner NHS England, in partnership with the local authority have commissioned a Family Nurse Partnership programme in Bridlington and Goole. This programme works with vulnerable young women from disadvantaged backgrounds aged 19 years or under who are expecting their first baby. Intensive support is provided from 28 weeks of pregnancy until the child is two years old.

The CCG are collaborating with Local Authority colleagues to implement the relevant elements of the Special Education Needs and Disability Reform bill (SEND). This includes The Local Offer - information published in one place which is accessible to families and others about the services, support and for children and young people aged 0 – 25 who have special educational needs and / or disabilities. This may include health, education, social care, transport, play / youth services, training and support for independent living etc.

Education, Health and Care Assessment Plans are extending Special Education Needs statements to include health and social care needs. The process requires agencies to work together to enable families to “tell their story” once rather than to each agency independently, determine outcomes for the child and then agree and provide the support needed to enable them to be achieved.

Health Visiting Services - have access to all families with preschool age children. The Trust has been developing its health visiting workforce in line with the national Health Visiting Plan. All children under 5 have a named Health Visitor. All children will be offered a universal service through the Healthy Child Programme while universal plus will give a rapid response from a Health Visiting team if specific expert help is needed, for example post natal depression, or answering any concerns about parenting. Universal partnership will ensure care through multiagency response to those children in special circumstances such as the Locked After System or where there are safeguarding concerns.

The increase in Health Visiting numbers will ensure that all parents and children should have access to the support they need, with early intervention to ensure additional support for those who need it.

School Nursing Service – is also provided by the Humber NHS Foundation Trust to mainstream, private and special schools in the East Riding. School nurses or Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (SCPHN) deliver the Healthy Child Programme to school age children. They are skilled in identifying issues early, determining potential risks, and providing early intervention to prevent issues escalating. The role includes health promotion, immunisations, advice, pop ins including access to sexual health advice and contraception and signposting to other services and addressing safeguarding concerns. School nurses work in partnership with other agencies and as part of a wider multi-disciplinary team.

7. Useful contact information

FAMILIES INFORMATION SERVICE HUB (FISH)

Details of services for children and young people aged 0-20 years (01482) 396469

EARLY HELP AND SAFEGUARDING HUB (EHaSH)

If you are worried about a child/young person or think that they might be at risk of harm, abuse or neglect, you can contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH) to log your concern and receive advice:

Telephone: (01482) 395500 Email: childrens.socialcare@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk

During office hours (Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm, Friday 9am-4.30pm)

Outside of office hours, please contact the emergency duty team:

Tel: (01377) 241273

Email: emergency.duty.team@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk

If a child is suffering abuse and requires urgent attention because of immediate danger, call the Police on 999.

Still not sure if you should contact us? If you are worried that a child/young person is being affected by:

- domestic violence
- abusive/exploitative relationships
- behaviour, emotional well-being/mental health
- alcohol and/or substance misuse
- welfare and benefits
- bereavement and separation

Making an enquiry/referral as a professional? Professionals contacting EHaSH will be asked to follow up their telephone enquiry in writing using the confirmation of referral form. This should usually be done within 24 hours of raising the concern.

HUMBERSIDE POLICE

Protecting Vulnerable People: (01430) 808403

In an emergency dial 999 or 101

EAST RIDING SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (01482) 396999

Safeguarding Advice Line (01482) 396999

The safeguarding advice line **DOES NOT TAKE REFERRALS** but will advise practitioners on:

- Advice regarding complex child protection issues
- Advice regarding allegations made against people who work with children
- Making an enquiry to ascertain if a child is subject to a child protection plan
- Whether a Child Protection Conference should be convened
- Where the criteria for a Child Protection Conference has not been met a Child in Need Meeting should be convened

East Riding Safeguarding Children Board Training (01482) 396994

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) (01482) 396999
Allegations against professionals

EDUCATION

Child Protection Officer (Schools) (01482) 392139

Education Welfare Service and Children Missing Education (CME) (01482) 392146

Contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub on (01482) 395500

HEALTH

NHS East Riding of Yorkshire (01482) 650700
Child Protection Team Hull and East Yorkshire Hospital Trust (01482) 674061

Anlaby Suite, Craven Building, Hull Royal Infirmary, Hull

Named Nurses

Humber NHS Foundation Trust (01482) 335810

Hull & East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (01482) 675103

Doctors

Designated Doctor for Hull and East Riding (01482) 674061

Named Doctor Safeguarding Children (01482) 888690

East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust Safeguarding Team (Anlaby Suite) (01482) 675103

YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

(01482) 396623