

Derbyshire and Derby City Early Help Vision

Early Intervention means doing things as early as possible to support children's physical, cognitive, communication, emotional and adaptive development. Early childhood years are important and especially for children with disabilities and developmental delays. All future development is based on critical learning patterns laid down in early years. Needs for children can emerge at any stage including school age, teenage years and early intervention needs to be age appropriate to support all children.

A key element is to enhance the capabilities of every parent to provide a supportive and enriching environment for their children to grow up in. Then the next generation has the best chance to flourish with positive parenting skills.

Its purpose is to improve the life chances of children and families and benefit society at large, whilst being cost effective.

The concept of early help reflects the widespread recognition that it is better to identify and deal with problems early rather than to respond when difficulties have become acute and demand action by more expensive services.

There is now strong evidence of the factors that place children at risk of neglect or abuse, of developing mental health problems, of failing in education, or of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.

These negative outcomes are not only damaging to the children or young people concerned, to their families and the communities where they live, but also result in significant costs to the state

The use the term "Late Intervention" as an umbrella term for a range of acute or statutory services that are required when children & young people experience significant difficulties in life, as well other support they may draw upon such as welfare benefits.

Nearly £17 billion per year is spent in England and Wales by the state on short run 'Late Intervention'.

All partners across the footprint of Derbyshire and Derby City are committed to helping children and families at the earliest possible.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 states:

Early help

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*
- *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 areas should have a comprehensive range of effective, evidence-based services in place to address assessed needs early. The early help offer should draw upon any local assessment of need, including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and the latest evidence of the effectiveness of early help and early intervention programmes. In addition to high quality support in universal services, specific local early help services will typically include family and parenting programmes, assistance with health issues and help for problems relating to domestic abuse and drug or alcohol misuse by an adult or the child. Services may also focus on improving family functioning and building the family’s own capability to solve problems; this should be done within a structured, evidence-based framework involving regular review to ensure that real progress is being made. Some of these services may be delivered to parents but should always be evaluated to demonstrate the impact they are having on the outcomes for the child.”

Good Practice is achieved by:

- Providing right intervention, at the right time.
- Resources are used to deliver Evidence Based Programme (EBP) interventions
- Practitioners have appropriate comprehension and ability to deliver EBP early interventions.

Assessing Need and providing help:

- Early Help is child & family focussed
- Early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children
- Effective early help relies upon agencies working together; to identify indicators of need, undertake Early Help Assessments.
- Provide targeted early help services, which significantly improve a child’s outcomes.
- Effective Intervention may occur at any point in a child or young person’s life.

Derbyshire and Derby City Principles of agreement across all partnership arrangements.

1. All partners work towards identifying emerging needs, working with families to coordinate initial interventions and leading on a Multi- Agency approach should it be required.
2. All partners will adhere to the Working Together 2018 and work with their identified LSCB to ensure they follow multi agency policy and procedures for early help and use the early help assessment and team around the family approaches, where appropriate.
3. All organisations will ensure any changes to services for Children and Families are presented at partnership boards such as FIM, STP, LSCB and Opportunity Area board, to ensure good communication and strategic planning.
4. Strategically partnerships will :
 - maintain an ongoing understanding of early intervention services across the footprint
 - share updates on emerging issues within communities
 - share good practice and positive outcomes
 - assess impact of gaps and duplication in service delivery to maximise efficiencies

Across all organisations operating in the footprint of Derbyshire & Derby.

- ❖ Derbyshire and Derby geographical area is the footprint for this agreement and all services operating within this area will contribute to the vision.
- ❖ Strategic partnerships to lead the delivery of the vision include: LSCB's, STP, FIM, Childrens Partnerships, Derby opportunity area.