



One-minute guide

Early Help Assessments

What is an Early Help Assessment (EHA)?

The Early Help Assessment is a way of identifying emerging problems and potential unmet needs of individual children and families, identifying strengths and protective factors and bringing together an offer of support so that children have the opportunity to achieve and thrive within their own family.

An EHA should support practice and how we engage with children, young people and families.

How does an Early Help Assessment Help?

It is a whole family approach, empowering families to take responsibility by working with them, not doing things to or for them. The voice of the child should be the centre of all decisions and influence the planning of help and services.

The EHA will support a family to:

- ✓ Be supported and empowered to identify their own problems, needs and solutions
- ✓ Receive the right help at the right time
- ✓ Build on a family's strengths - supporting them to get back on track
- ✓ Only tell their story once as the Early Help Assessment is a shared document
- ✓ Know that all practitioners will work together with the family and act as champions of the child/children

When and how is an Early Help Assessment Used?

Not all families need an EHA to receive help but this should be carried out where multiple agencies are needed to provide the help that is needed. Engaging with the family to obtain their consent will be key to achieving change and successful outcomes for the child. The practitioner leading the assessment will act as the child's champion to find out:

- ✓ How things are for the family and how it effects their children?
- ✓ Who is in the family's wider network of support?
- ✓ What they think is going well in their family?
- ✓ What they would like to be different?
- ✓ What support they already have?
- ✓ Views of the child/children and their family.
- ✓ The practitioner and family work together to complete the Early Help Assessment and identify and agree the additional support that could be offered.

The Early Help Assessment may identify a Level 3 or Level 4 threshold of need, requiring targeted/specialist support. In this instance, a Request for Support Form should be completed and returned to Surrey C-SPA along with the completed Early Help Assessment.

Confidentiality – How is personal information kept safe?

Permission should be granted by the family before any information is shared. Information which is provided by a family will only be shared with those that need to know unless there are concerns that a child or young person is at risk of, or is suffering, abuse or neglect; when an adult is at risk of harm; or to help prevent or detect a serious crime.

Child's Champion role and what happens next?

The child's champion should be someone who knows the family well and works closely with them. They will be a central point of contact for the family. They ensure the family is listened to, supported and kept informed. They will work with the family to complete the Early Help Assessment and support the wider family and professional network in implementing the family plan.

Depending on the outcome the child's champion may continue to support the family or arrange a Team Around the Family with other practitioners coming together to offer the most appropriate support.



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