

Contact us

For more information, advice or guidance you can talk to a professional working with you or your child or young person. Fill in their details in the spaces below.

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____



A child in this guide refers to children and young people aged 0-19 years old (up to 25 years old if the young person has additional needs).

With special thanks to Hale and Kestrels Children's Centres for their contribution in producing this guide.



Early help assessment a guide for families



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What is an early help assessment?

When your child or family needs extra support, we want to find the best way forward as soon as possible. An early help assessment is a new way of everyone working together, which puts your family at the heart of decisions that are made.

The assessment is a simple way of gathering information and recording it in an organised way. Older children may feel able to discuss their situation with a worker and provide their own information.

Based on the information you and your family provide, all those who can offer additional support will create an action plan with you and work together to provide the help your family needs. Only workers who need to know about your family will have information shared with them through written copies or a secure electronic system.



What is a lead professional?

If a number of people are providing support to your family, one will act as the lead professional. This is the person who will keep you informed, listen to your views and support you. They will also coordinate the 'team around the family' (TAF) review meeting with all the professionals working with you and keep in touch with all services that are providing ongoing support.

Confidentiality

The information you and your family provide will only be shared with your consent. However, if a child or other person is considered to be at risk of significant harm, people working with you will have a duty of care to share the information with the relevant services. You can discuss this further with those who are supporting your family.



What do families say about the early help assessment?

- "Don't be afraid to ask for help"
- "It can help children of all ages"
- "I felt listened to and understood"
- "It makes people aware that you need some extra help"

