

WHAT MAKES EARLY HELP WORK?

An effective early help offer will need to adhere to these over-arching practices:

WHOLE FAMILY WORKING



Children and young people's needs are best met when addressed in the context of the whole family, with agreement, and as part of a holistic 'team around the family response'. Only by considering all of the needs of the whole family can we realistically hope to produce an action plan which will benefit all concerned.

EARLY IDENTIFICATION

Early identification is preventative. It's about recognising difficulties quickly, and making a prompt intervention to support children and their families so that issues are tackled before they become more ingrained problems. Early identification is everyone's responsibility.



AGENCIES WORKING TOGETHER



Effective Early Help relies upon local agencies working together to identify children and families who would benefit, assess their needs and provide targeted services to meet those needs. Our Early Help offer is only effective due to the excellent relationships and joint working we have in place with a range of local partners who are key to its delivery.

INFORMED PROCESSES

An informed process is one in which decision-making is informed by gathering observations in progressive steps. From gaining consent, assigning a lead practitioner, forming a team around the family, producing an action plan with positive outcomes clearly defined ... the whole process is inclusive and transparent and focussed on the needs of the children and young people most affected.



COMMUNICATION

Services providing early help services share information appropriately in order to reduce the risks to children. Workers record and monitor their work so they can be clear on the positive impact of how they are improving the lives of families. Honest and transparent communication must underpin the whole process ensuring all family members are fully informed at all times.

