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Guide.

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## Staff Safeguarding

### Starting Question for ALL—What is Early Help?

## Early Help is...

**Early Help and early intervention** are ways to support children and families before problems become too serious. They are also known as **prevention services**.

These services are part of a **continuum of support**, which means they can be provided at any stage of a child or young person's life, from the early years right through to adolescence. They can be delivered to parents, carers and significant adults, children, or whole families,

The phrase Early Help means supplying support at the earliest possible time in a child's life to help improve their outcomes and prevent escalating of need or risk of harm.

Early Help can be given to families and children by many organisations including schools and some authorities have an Early Help service, which families can be referred to.

Early Help support is voluntary so a referral is usually carried out with the family and families can self refer. If a professional makes an inter-agency referral then Social Services may suggest Early Help support for the family.

Examples of Early Help in bottom right corner and the potential benefits of Early Help below.

Over the page you will find more on the type of children who might be of need of Early Help and a case study.

## The potential Impact of Early Help

Research<sup>\*</sup> suggests that early help and intervention can:

- protect children from harm
- reduce the need for a referral to

- child protection services
- improve children's long-term outcomes
- improve children's home and family life

- support children to develop strengths and skills to prepare them for adult life.

<sup>\*</sup> <https://www.eif.org.uk/why-it-matters>

(Source NSPCC)

Safeguarding is:

- > Protecting children from maltreatment
- > Preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health and development
- > Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- > Taking action to enable all children to have best outcomes

**QUESTION: How do you / your organisation define "effective care?"**



### Examples of Early Help

Family Support
Food Bank
School nurse support
Parenting support
Housing support
Mentoring and Tutoring
Behaviour support
Attendance support
Benefit Support
Boundaries

## Early Help: Who may benefit from Early Help?

- All school and college staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for Early Help for a child who:
- ◇ is persistently absent from school or with patterns of absence
  - ◇ lives in a home with alcohol or drugs misuse
  - ◇ is a young carer
  - ◇ is living with domestic violence
  - ◇ has a SEND
  - (Source KCSIE 2023)
  - ◇ has returned home from care

### Questions to discuss:

Why do you think the children listed (to the left) may need Early Help?

Which other children may be in need of Early Help and why?

What about the quiet ones?

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## Case study: potential early help – 10 mins discussion

Read the first part of the case study (**part a**) with a colleague and answer the associated question. Then read **part b** and answer the question, then read the **part c** and answer the question and then finally, as a group answer the final question.

a *Jimmy is 10 years old and has been struggling in school. He has become rather quiet and seems very tired when he is in school. He has also now and again been arriving late to school. You are aware that he lives at home with his Dad and a younger child who is not in your school. You are a little worried about him and his ability to concentrate on his work.*

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO or SAY to JIMMY?**

b *When you speak with Jimmy he says his Dad has been very ill, he thinks it is cancer but he is not sure. Dad has had to go to the hospital quite a lot and his sister has been staying with his Gran when his Dad is in hospital.*

**WHAT WOULD BE YOUR NEXT STEP?**

c *Through the grapevine / investigation you find out that Jimmy is shopping for his Dad and himself and his sister in the local CO-OP and buying the reduced food as it is a bargain.*

**WHAT 'EARLY HELP' SUPPORT COULD YOU ACCESS AS A SCHOOL, FOR JIMMY and HIS FAMILY?**

d **FINAL GROUP QUESTION**

**WHEN WOULD YOU FEEL YOU MIGHT HAVE TO ESCALATE THE CONCERN SO THAT**

**PERSONAL TAKEAWAYS— here is a space for you to note down your personal takeaways with respect to EARLY HELP.**