

# Barnsley Family Centres

## Early Help for Families

What's on in the local area?

Can I get support for my child?

What childcare is available and how much does it cost?

We're new parents, we'd like some advice!

How can I get job ready?

We're having a baby. We're so excited, but need some advice.



## What is early help in Barnsley?

Early help is our approach to providing support to potentially vulnerable children, young people and families as soon as problems start to emerge, or when there is a strong likelihood that problems will emerge in the future.

Early help may occur at any point in a child or young person's life, from childhood to adolescence, and includes both interventions early in life as well as interventions early in the development of a problem.

It is about the way we can all work together, share information, and put the child and their family at the centre providing effective support to help them solve problems and find solutions at an early stage, so we avoid needs becoming so great that specialist statutory interventions are required.

Families are best supported by those who already work with them organising additional support with local partners as needed.

The Barnsley early help offer includes provision of universal and targeted services to reduce or prevent specific problems from escalating or becoming entrenched.

We want all children and young people in Barnsley to be able to enjoy a happy, safe and healthy childhood and fulfil their potential.



## Early help is everybody's responsibility

Our early help offer recognises the role that all family members play in influencing what children experience and achieve as well as the consequences when the families are in difficulty.

Anybody working with children, young people and families, including services for adults (for example mental health services and housing), is responsible for early help. All practitioners need to understand our early help approach and the family's entitlement to an early help assessment when appropriate and a plan that is regularly reviewed to meet their needs.

Families can approach anyone working with them who should respond and begin to assess need and start conversations with the right people to identify how help should be provided. Barnsley's early help offer is based on:

- An approach that considers the whole family and addresses children's need in the wider family context
- Practice which focusses on families strengths, and helps them to develop their resilience to manage areas of difficulty in their family life, within a focus on practical 'hands on' support
- A multi-disciplinary approach that brings a range of professional skills and expertise together through a 'Team around the Family'
- A relationship with a trusted lead professional who can engage the child and their family, and coordinate the support needed from other agencies with family consent
- Simple, streamlined referral and assessment processes

## What is a Family Centre?

Family Centres deliver integrated services for children pre-birth up to 19 years (or 25 years if the young person has a disability) offering a variety of provision according to the needs of local families. Family Centres bring together practitioners from a range of universal, targeted and specialist services in each local area including schools, police, social care, private and voluntary sector and some adult services. Services delivered will vary in each area depending on the needs of families and the wider community.

Early help services are co-ordinated and delivered through Family Centres and:

- Support children to be ready for school and thrive in school

- Support parents and carers to develop their parenting skills
- Support parents and carers to develop personal skills, access training and education and enhance their ability to access employment
- Support parents and carers to keep children safe
- Help children to achieve their full potential and reduce inequalities in their health and development
- Support the development of healthy lifestyles for children
- Support families to build their own resilience

Services for adults play an essential role in our early help approach

as these can impact on adults parenting capacity and family life. Some adults have additional needs which can impact negatively on family life if not supported. Services which predominantly work with either children and young people or adults need to adopt a 'think family' approach to secure better outcomes for children, young people and families with additional needs, through co-ordinating the support they provide.



## How we can work together in Family Centres

Family Centres are rooted firmly in communities and each area will have an advisory board which is made up of families, key partners and stakeholders who will provide support, challenge and accountability. Each advisory board will support families and stakeholders to shape the delivery and development of early help services in their communities.



## Levels of early help support

### Targeted Support

For those children, young people and families who face more challenges and may have multiple issues targeted services provide additional capacity and expertise to address their needs. Through Family Centres, children, young people and families can access a programme of targeted group provision and one to one support. The work of Family Centre Family Support Workers and Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) Workers in the Targeted Youth Support Service will be accessed and co-ordinated through Family Centres in order to provide one simple gateway to support for children, young people and families.

Targeted one to one support through a Family Support Worker/EIP Worker

is available to children, young people and families where it has been deemed that it is appropriate for an Early Help Assessment (EHA) be undertaken due to the level of need and the number of potential agencies which may be to be involved to fully support the child and family. An EHA may have been instigated prior to requesting a service from Family Centres or may be initiated by the Family Support Worker/EIP Worker, if appropriate.

By working together effectively we seek to reduce the number of children and young people requiring statutory interventions and reactive specialist services.

### Universal Services

Most children's needs are met by their family or universal services, that is, those services that are available to everyone. These are provided as a right to all children, young people and their families, including those whose needs are also met within targeted and/or specialist and statutory services. Families may self-refer into these services or may just need to access to information, guidance and signposting. Universal

services are available through Family Centres, I Know I Can (IKIC) young people centres, outreach in the community and through the Families Information Service. Family Centres offer a timetable of groups and activities for all families and include services delivered by partner agencies including a full range of information, advice and guidance on wider services available in a community.



## Specialist Services

When a child or young person's needs cannot be met by universal or targeted services practitioners can make a request directly to a more specialist service. This includes when a child or young person is in need of help and where it is believed that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Children's Social Care's 'Front Door' acts as the first point of contact and will either:

- Provide information to support the practitioner to effectively support the child and family
- Signpost to a particular service
- Request early help through Family Centres to provide access to support from universal or targeted services
- Proceed with a social care assessment

There is a clear and direct pathway between Children's Social Care and the community based Family Centres, who will support and co-ordinate with partner agencies, step down interventions and plans for children who no longer require safeguarding services.

When the child in need or Child Protection Plan has concluded that the child is no longer in need of services from a statutory social work team, but does identify a specific role for a Family Centre support worker/ EIP worker, they will take over the lead practitioner role in the team around the family process as part of a managed transition.

Equally there is a clear pathway for children or young people whose needs cannot be met by early help and who require escalation to Children's Social Care in order that they are safeguarded. In defined circumstances the service will provide targeted short interventions to children who are allocated to statutory social work teams when they have been previously involved in supporting the family as part of a planned escalation and under the direction of the allocated social worker. This is to facilitate ongoing relationships when it is deemed supportive to the family.

The Family Centre service will not independently undertake work with children and families who are identified to be 'in need' or 'suffering or likely to suffer significant harm' in line with statutory definitions.



## Early Help Assessments (EHA)

Where a practitioner feels that a child or young person may need additional support (beyond that available from a single agency), a co-ordinated multi-disciplinary approach is usually best, based on an EHA, with a Lead Practitioner to work closely with the child and the family to ensure they receive all the support they require. A range of targeted services are available through Family Centres to support these interventions.

EHAs provide the opportunity to share information with practitioners from other agencies to: clarify the nature of the concerns; identify the needs of the child/young person; and agree the appropriate response and how it will be co-ordinated. The focus of an EHA is to determine the need for early help and the actions to be taken to improve outcomes from children and families as a whole which will inform the Early Help plan. The assessment is based on a holistic view of the needs of the family.



## What to do when you want to start an Early Help Assessment (EHA)

From the 14th March 2016, the Family Centre service will take over co-ordination and monitoring of EHAs across the borough on behalf of all partners and the following process will go live.

### Step One:

When you decide to undertake an EHA you need to get a Unique Identifying Number (UIN). You will need to:

1. Complete a Request for EHA Unique Identifying Number form which can be accessed online at [www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/families-information-service](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/families-information-service) and searching 'early help', or in person at your local Family Centre. All EHAs must include signed family consent.
2. Email form to the Early Help Inbox – [earlyhelp@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@barnsley.gov.uk) or take to your local Family Centre.
3. Early Help service confirm if an EHA is already underway or if there is an open social care case and contact you as required
4. A EHA Unique Identifying Number will be issued to you via email

You should continue with the assessment while waiting for the number.

### Step Two:

Once you have completed the EHA you will need to:

1. Scan and email completed EHA and Action Plan (including signed family consent) to the Early Help Inbox within 3 weeks of the UIN being issued
2. Scan and email closure documents and outcome to the Early Help Inbox
3. If the action plan has not been completed at 18 weeks you need to scan and email the current EHA and Action Plan to the Early Help Inbox for review to assess progress, timescales and next steps

If you do not have access to scanning facilities your local Family Centre will be happy to support.

## Early Help through Family Centres

The Family Centre service and the Targeted Youth Support service are working closely to provide one gateway to services for all children and families aged pre-birth to 19 years (25 years if the young person has a disability) through Family Centres and locally based I Know I Can (IKIC) young person centres.

Through Family Centres and IKIC centres, children, young people and families are able to access early help and support at the earliest opportunity. Families have access to a full range services, either delivered on site, in other suitable community venues or in the home. Families who are resident within the borough can register and access services at any Family or IKIC Centres, so that families can access services at the Centre which makes most sense to them and their circumstances.



## How to access Early Help through Family Centres

For children, young people and families who would benefit from Family Centre targeted services, the following pathway is available.

You should follow these simple steps:

1. Complete a Family Centre Early Help Request for service form which can be accessed online at [www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/families-information-service](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/families-information-service) and searching 'early help' or in person at your local Family Centre.

2. Email completed form to Early Help Inbox – [earlyhelp@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@barnsley.gov.uk) or take it to your local Family Centre.

3. Request will be reviewed and allocated by the weekly Early Help Panel to:

- Targeted group provision e.g. parenting programme
- Allocate Family Support Worker/EIP Worker.

4. Practitioner to be informed of the outcome of their request.

Central to our early help offer is the use of the Outcomes Star as a strength based tool to work with children and families. The Outcomes Stars help children, young people and families recognise, understand and measure the distance travelled as they make improvements and positive choices.



## Main Family Centres

Darfield, School Street, S73 9EU • Phone: (01226) 753366

Thurnscoe, Station Road, Thurnscoe S63 OJR • Phone: (01226) 775885

Grimethorpe, c/o Milefield Primary, Grimethorpe S72 7BH • Phone: (01226) 715127

Athersley, Lindhurst Road, Athersley North, S71 3NB • Phone: (01226) 296969

Kendray and Worsbrough, Overdale Avenue, Worsbrough Dale S70 4BD • Phone: (01226) 294604

## Linked Family Centres

Dearne, Billingley View, Bolton on Dearne S63 8ES • Phone: (01709) 890303

Jump, Church Street S74 0HZ • Phone: (01226) 747082

Wombwell, Bondfield Close, Wombwell S73 8TX • Phone: (01226) 273240

Lundwood, Littleworth Lane, S71 5RG • Phone: (01226) 248564

Worsbrough Common, c/o Worsbrough Common Primary, Bruce Avenue S70 4EB • Phone: (01226) 289989

## Outreach Sites and Community Venues

Monk Bretton, c/o Burton Road Primary S71 2AA

Cudworth, c/o Birkwood Primary, Darfield Road, Cudworth, S72 8HG

Darton, The Darton Centre, Huddersfield Road S75 5ND

Hoyland Common, Sheffield Road S74 ODJ

Stairfoot c/o Hunningley Primary, Stairfoot S70 3DT

Penistone, c/o The Resource Centre, Church Street S36 6AR

Royston, Meadstead Drive S71 4JS

Wilthorpe, Greenfoot Lane S75 1AQ.

Services will also be delivered from a range of other suitable Community Venues.

## I Know I Can (IKIC) Centres

Athersley, Newstead Road, Athersley North, S71 3NA

Cudworth, Snyderdale Road, S72 8JR

Dearne, Goldthorpe Green, S63 9EJ

Penistone, High Street, S36 6BS

Town Centre, O Zone, Barnsley Football Club, Oakwell Stadium, Grove Street, S71 1ET

Wombwell, Barnsley Road, S73 8HT.

To find your nearest centre please go to  
[www.barnsley.gov.uk](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk) and search  
children's centres.

If you need help understanding this  
document please contact the  
Families Information Service on

0800 0345 340

Nése j'u nevojitet ndihmë për të kuptuar këtë dokument, j'u lutemi n'a kontaktoni.

若您需要幫助來理解本檔，請與我們聯繫。

यदि आप को इस दस्तावेज़ को समझने के लिए सहायता की आवश्यकता है तो कृपया हम से संपर्क करें

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tego dokumentu skontaktuj się z nami

ਜੇਕਰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਲਈ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਮਦਦ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ

Обратитесь к нам, если для того, чтобы понять этот документ, вам нужна помощь

گراپ کو اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے کیلئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ کرم ہم سے  
رابطہ کریں