



Proud to work with Rotherham's
children • young people • families

Early Help Draft Strategy 23-28

21st September 2022

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Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council 

1

Purpose

Opportunity to inform, shape and influence the draft Early Help Strategy 2023-2028

Outcome/s:

- Appreciation of Early Help & Early Intervention
- Opportunity to inform the Principles, Priorities, and design of the Strategy

2

What makes a good strategy?

A good strategy provides;

- Analysis or description of current situation or a problem
- A Vision
- A Roadmap
- Guiding Principles
- Priorities
- Action Plan (SMART)

“A strategy is just one element of the overall strategic direction that leaders must define for their organisation. “

- Avoid ‘fluff’
- Less is more
- Simple messages

3

The legislative context for Early Help

*Providing Early Help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early Help means providing support **as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child’s life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.***

Early Help can also prevent further problems arising, for example, if it is provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care.’

Working Together 2018 HM Government

4

Working Together 2018 Cont.

Local authorities should work *with* organisations and agencies to develop **joined-up** early help services based on a clear understanding of local needs.

This requires all practitioners, including those in universal services and those providing services to adults with children, to understand their role in identifying emerging problems and to share information with other practitioners to support early identification and assessment.

5

Early Help Strategy 2016-2019

Phase One introduced ...

- New governance through the Children and Young people's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) the Member-led Early Help Review Board, the partner led **Early Help Steering Group**
- New systems and processes to ensure swift access to support through the Early Help Assessment (EHA) and the **first phase of integration** of **previously separate** professional disciplines and services into integrated Early Help locality teams

Phase Two

- In Phase Two we delivered a **whole service redesign** developing **new job roles** and more efficient and effective ways of working to embed a shared responsibility across the partnership for meeting the needs of families earlier.
- "We will build on our achievements in phase one and refined our Early Help Offer through **further integration and service redesign** with our partners and stakeholders."

Phase Three

- Phase three described how "we will ensure that **Rotherham's early Help offer is sustainable**"
- We described how we would "work in partnership to explore **the potential for all-age family integrated services** and look at innovative ways to reshape our existing buildings and centres into all age delivery points in localities and communities"
- "The **local authority** will **review our staffing structures** and seek to **reduce our management capacity** as the early Help offer becomes further embedded across the wider early help partnership"

6

In January 2018 Ofsted noted

- The Early Help offer has undergone **considerable transformation** since January 2016.
- There is now a **shared strategic ownership and ambition** with partners
- Inspectors saw some **very effective work** with children and families
- Families in localities benefit from a **broad range of Early Help services** which continue to be **more integrated with social care**. This facilitates **an improved and seamless delivery of services** to children and their families
- The local authority, with its partners, **meets regularly through the Early Help Steering Group**. Adopting the Troubled Families Maturity Matrix model, the Steering Group has an Action Plan that is updated quarterly
- **Early Help locality teams are co-located** with social care and partners across the borough. This is improving communication and the delivery of responsive interventions and services in local communities
- Feedback from families, schools and partners of the local authority is routinely gathered and shared on a monthly basis.
- The evidence from Early Help Exit Surveys **consistently demonstrates that Early Help is making a difference**, and that family's feel supported at this lower level.
- **Partner agencies are now undertaking Early Help Assessments** supported demonstrating their **growing confidence in the arrangements**.
- Arrangements for **stepping cases up to social care or down to Early Help are robust and well embedded** in locality practice.

7

In June 2022 Ofsted noted

- *Children are stepped up and down to the Early Help service appropriately, with managers capturing their oversight and decision-making in case records.*
- *Where required, Early Help workers co-work with social workers to provide targeted interventions to support families and children in their homes.*

8

Vision

“All agencies working together to ensure children, young people and families have their needs identified early, so that they can receive swift access to targeted help and support”

*Agreed by partners

9

Governance & Oversight

Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP)

Rotherham's Safeguarding Children's Partnership is responsible for providing strategic direction and oversight of the Early Help Strategy and monitoring the delivery of the Early Help Delivery Plan

The Early Help Steering Group (EHSG)

The EHSG is the multi-agency partnership that reports to the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP) & provides the coordination of the Early Help Offer in Rotherham. The EHSG has developed the early help system in Rotherham into a mature and collaborative way of working and has coproduced this draft strategy.

Best Start & Beyond Framework Steering Group

The group is responsible for the development and implementation of the Best Start and Beyond Framework. It will produce a quarterly progress report to provide updates to Health and Wellbeing Board, Place Board and Early Help Steering Group

10

Community Support & Universal Services Targeted Early Help & Acute Support



11

EXERCICE: Analysis of current situation

Spend 10 Minutes discussing Rotherham ...

Think: *Place - People - Partnerships*
(Neighbourhood and Early Help Context)

- What's working well?
- What are we worried about / Challenges?

12

Exercise

Principles: Can we get this down to six?

- Children, young people & families at the heart of everything we do
- Early Help is everyone's business
- WE work *with* children, young people & families in a restorative way
- A family must give their consent for Early Help before information can be shared across agencies
- Our practice is strengths based and relational
- Right support, at the right time, in the right place
- Colocation of services and people
- Nobody should be working in isolation
- Conversations, meetings, assessments and plans should be purposeful and lead to actions to improve outcomes for the family.
- Make every contact count
- Prevention is better than intervention
- Working With communities
- Opportunities for all

13

Exercise:

Design: (Look & Feel)

Which strategies do you like and why?

Content:

Is there anything missing?

What do you like about the draft strategy?

Is there anything you would want to change?

14