

# Early Help Offer

*We take our responsibility for safeguarding our young people helping to support them and their families very seriously. We know the benefit of identifying the need for early help and working with parents to act early as a way of supporting before needs become more serious.*

*The school communities will therefore:*

- *ensure and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk to adults who will listen.*
- *ensure that all children know there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.*
- *include in the curriculum opportunities for Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) classes, which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn for help.*
- *work with parents and children to help improve lived experiences if/when required.*

*Each school has its own safeguarding team and child protection policy which is clear on each of their websites and around the school site.*

The list above provides examples of areas where, without intervention, a family may break down or a child may be put at risk of neglect, emotional, physical or sexual harm. The school has no pre-prescribed criteria for supporting children and families. Each case is assessed according to needs and a bespoke programme put in place for that child and/or family.

The school will always gain consent and aim to involve children and their families at all stages of Early Help. The only exception to this is when the school believes that the child is at risk of significant harm and if:

- by telling parents it would put the child at further risk of significant harm or
- it would put an adult at risk of significant harm or
- it interferes with a criminal investigation.

## Early Help can support children and their families who may be struggling with:

- parenting – routines/family rules;
- families who may not be eating healthy food or keeping to a healthy lifestyle;
- low income or poverty;
- transport;
- limited community integration;
- young carer circumstances;
- substance/alcohol abuse;
- breakdown in family relationships;
- domestic abuse;
- breakdown in community relationships;
- Special Educational Needs (refer to local and school offer);
- child mental health;
- isolation;
- adult mental health;
- disability within the family;
- bereavement;
- attendance and punctuality;
- changes in behaviour;
- poor behaviour and risk of exclusion;
- child unaware of how to keep themselves safe online;
- child unaware of danger and how to keep themselves safe;
- child demonstrates sexualised behaviours;
- frequent house or school moves;
- extremist views;
- children who may become involved in anti-social or criminal activity;
- children associated with gangs;
- children going missing from care or from home;
- children who are at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
- private fostering arrangements (a child from another family living within your home)

## How we might be able to help and support:

Below are some ways we can offer support in our school:

### Pastoral Support

- Classteachers, Form Tutors, Year Group Leaders picking up concerns quickly
- Meet & Greets
- Safe Spaces
- time with pastoral staff
- mentors
- Time Out or access to nurture rooms/designated rooms (depending on age and need this may include access to services such as play therapy, emotional literacy support, school counsellor)
- school led intervention programmes such as No Worries
- Education Welfare Officer to offer support and advice on attendance or punctuality
- PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education Programmes) and RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) programmes
- online safety support and advice through our computing programmes and parental information

Early Help is a team effort (as shown by this Shropshire Early Help graphic below) and falls into a stepped approach according to need (in the table below):



### Safeguarding Teams and Family Support Worker

All schools have Designated Safeguarding Team and access to a Trust Family Support Worker who will liaise with families, provide advice and sign-post to support. The safeguarding team or Family Support Worker may recommend completing a broader Early Help Assessment to understand and support appropriately. The Family Support Worker may also visit parents and carers at home. However, Early Help is a team effort (as shown by this Shropshire Early Help graphic below) and falls into a stepped approach according to need (in the table below):

## How we put Early Help into practice:

Families whose needs are met by on-going services such as schools, GP's, Health Visitors and Dentists alongside the love, care and protection of parents, carers and communities. Some limited intervention from a universal service may be needed to avoid arising needs or to meet a single identified need. The majority of children living in the UK will fall into this category.

### What do you need to do?

Access support in your community.  
Call First Point of Contact 0345 6789021, Option 2 for Early Help and Support Team (EHAST).  
Email the Family Information Service - [shropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:shropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk)

**Families needing information and advice**

Children and young people with additional needs (not just Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), that can be met through a single agency response or through agencies working together to provide a coordinated partnership response. The support required may only be short term, but if ignored, these issues could escalate.

### What do you need to do?

Single agency should talk to the family and carry out an Early Help Assessment (EHA) to ensure the child receives the right support, in the right place, at the right time. A Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting must take place to agree a coordinated response which will be detailed in a Family Plan.

**Families needing help**

The child has a high level of unmet and complex needs or is in need of protection and requires support from Children's Services:

- Child is/or may be at risk of significant harm if they remain in their parent's or carer's care and requires a Child in Need assessment and support.
- Child is assessed as having suffered significant harm requiring a multi-agency Child Protection plan to safeguard them.
- Child may need to be cared for outside their immediate family full time.

### What do you need to do?

Call First Point of Contact 0345 6789021, Option 1 for Children's Social Care.  
This may include making a referral to Children's Social Care, signposting to specialist services or a recommendation might be that an Early Help Assessment is appropriate.

**Families who have a child in need, at risk of harm or requiring specialist services**

**Families needing more help**

Targeted provision for children with multiple issues or complex needs where a coordinated multi-agency response is required. Despite Early Help interventions via a single agency or partnership working, these are children and families whose needs are not being met due to their range, depth and significance. This makes them very vulnerable and at risk of poor outcomes. Recognising the importance of relationships in identifying the most appropriate lead professional.

### What do you need to do?

Practitioners should talk to the family and carry out an Early Help Assessment (EHA) to ensure the child receives the right support, in the right place, at the right time. A Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting must take place to agree a multi-agency coordinated response which will be detailed in a Family Plan.

More information, including a range of services, can be found on the Shropshire Early Help Page [here](#). There is also a range of information and resources [here](#). Please note that we work with providers in Worcestershire who offer a similar range of services.

There is a Cleobury Community drop in on a monthly basis please, see details below or contact the school for future dates.

# Cleobury Community

Free information, advice and support



Cleobury Country

The Cleobury Country Centre  
Love Lane, DY14 8PE

Friday, 9am–11 am on:  
15 Sept 2023 20 Oct 2023  
17 Nov 2023 15 Dec 2023  
19 Jan 2024 16 Feb 2024



You can chat, have a coffee and see how we can help you with:

- Housing support
- Children's health and wellbeing
- Healthy living advice
- Dementia support
- Family life
- Home fire safety
- Domestic abuse support
- Drug & alcohol support
- Financial advice
- Getting older

and lots more!

