

WHAT IS AN EARLY HELP ASSESSMENT?

An Early Help Assessment is defined as multi-agency support for children, young people and families where there are multiple issues, using a Team Around the Family approach, with an identified Lead Practitioner.

Early Help Assessments can be completed within an agency's own structure and processes with a Lead Professional/Practitioner adhering to the principles outlined below:



CONSENT

Agreement from the family must be gained, after explaining openly and honestly what information could be shared and why.

LEAD PRACTITIONER

A lead / key worker is assigned to the family. This person must be recognised by the family and other professionals involved with the family.



AN ACTION PLAN

An assessment must be completed that takes into account the needs of the whole family, with an action plan in place that takes account of all (relevant) family members.

CHILD-LED

There must be a focus on outcomes for children and their families. The voice of the child must be sought and considered at all times.



TEAM AROUND THE FAMILY

A team around the family (TAF) approach must be in place. Regular meetings will take place and will be comprised of the family and relevant professionals.

REVIEW

Progress is regularly reviewed between the lead worker and the family and an outcomes star is used to measure this.



MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT

Each worker will receive management oversight to ensure support is appropriate, maintained and that cases are closed at the right time.