Early Help Offer

Lytham St Annes (LSA) High School Early Help Offer

What is Early Help?

Early Help is the process and means of support for identifying and addressing the needs of children and their families as soon as they emerge so that children's development is maintained and harm prevented (as part of 'early', targeted and sometimes intensive work with the wider family). This can occur at different points in the child's life, including pre-birth, and may be repeated for different reasons as the child develops.

The consequences of not addressing needs in this way are that the issues may become more entrenched, complex and acute and can become overlaid by additional needs and problems, not just for the individual child, but for the wider family. This, in turn, may require greater help and support from more agencies as time progresses and more severe and intractable problems are created.

Early Help can avoid these escalations and support/enable the child and the family to resolve their own issues and build resilience for the future. By effective use and deployment of Early Help, the following objectives can be achieved:

- Children start and attend school healthy and ready to learn.
- Children and young people are kept safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Children and young people are supported in their emotional wellbeing.
- Young people are ready to work.

Early Help Offer at LSA

At LSA High School we offer a range of support and signposting providing Level 1 & 2 (Universal Emerging Needs/Early Help Support) for our students and families. This provision is part of our **strong pastoral care and safeguarding system**.

Our **priorit**y is the welfare of our young people. We provide support to help them overcome challenges that affect learning and personal growth.

To support the Early Help Offer, we have an established Pastoral and Safeguarding Team based within the school. This consists of:

- Daily tutor time plays a key role, with the form tutor acting as the first point of contact for both students and families. This tutor remains involved in the child's academic journey for the duration of their school years. You will have the opportunity to meet them at dedicated "Meet the Tutor" evenings, held annually, to build and strengthen this relationship.

- Our Heads of Year who stay with students throughout their time at school, providing consistent support and helping them maintain good routines.

- Our team also includes staff dedicated to safeguarding, attendance, emotional support and behaviour, ensuring that every aspect of student welfare is supported.

- A list of staff and roles and responsibility are accessible on the school website.

We also work alongside other agencies who are available to support young people and their families. Details can be found in the additional information alongside an explanation of the early help assessment (a planning tool to identify the type of support that may be required) and the signs that a young person and family may benefit from additional help.

Additional Information

Early Help can be provided to address any emerging needs and consists of co-ordinated support from universal and targeted services e.g CYPMHS (Children and Young People's Mental Health Services), SHINE (Support and Help IN Education), Early Help Teams, voluntary community sector organisations and online resources and support.

Working Together to Safeguard Children in **December 2023**
Indicators of Need for Early Help (2023)

Health & Wellbeing

Child shows signs of **mental health difficulties** (e.g., anxiety, depression, self-harm).
Evidence of **substance misuse** (child or parent).
Developmental delays or unmet health needs.

Education

Persistent absence or risk of exclusion.
Sudden drop in **academic attainment** or engagement.
SEND needs not fully met.

Family & Relationships

Parental conflict, domestic abuse, or breakdown in family relationships.
Child is a **young carer** or parent struggling to meet basic care needs.
Housing instability or financial hardship.

Safety & Exploitation

Risk of **criminal exploitation**, gangs, or county lines.
Exposure to **online harm**, radicalisation, or sexual exploitation.
Frequent missing episodes from home or care.

Additional Vulnerabilities

Child returning from care or in private fostering.
There are on-going safeguarding concerns.
Family experiencing **multiple stressors** (e.g., unemployment, substance misuse).
Concerns about **harm outside the home** (peer influence, community risks).
Displaying disruptive or anti-social behaviour

What is an Early Help Assessment (EHA)?

An EHA is an initial assessment and planning tool that facilitates and coordinates multi-agency support. It assesses the situation of the child or young person and their family and helps to identify the needs of both the children and the adults in the family.

It enables families and agencies to efficiently identify the strengths and emerging needs of children and young people at risk of poor outcomes; it reduces duplication of assessment and improves involvement between agencies.

The assessment may take up to 45 days to complete depending on the information that is needing to be gathered.

As part of the detailed Early Help Assessment, many areas are considered for each unborn baby/child/young person and their family including: the child/young person's wishes and feelings, the harms or risks (past and present), what has happened to this child/young person, what trauma may have impacted them, parents/ carers understanding and engagement, the child/young person's and family's strengths, the support and interventions that agencies can offer and how might this address need.
Further information and resources can be found at:
https://lancashiresafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/p/safeguarding-children/early-help-support-for-families

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