

Who will have information about me?

No one will have information about you without your knowledge and agreement. You can also let us know if there is anybody you do not want to share your information with.

You will always be kept informed about what we are doing and how we are working with others.

Who will support me with the Early Help process?

In the early stages, the most appropriate person to offer support is a person who knows you and your family the best. This can be a person from any agency.



How can I find out more?

Early Help Central

Selby, Hambleton, Richmondshire
Email: earlyhelpcentral@northyorks.gov.uk
Tel: 01609 534829

Early Help West

Harrogate, Knaresborough, Ripon, Craven
Email: earlyhelpwest@northyorks.gov.uk
Tel: 01609 534842

Early Help East

Scarborough, Ryedale, Whitby
Email: earlyhelpeast@northyorks.gov.uk
Tel: 01609 534852

Further information can also be found on North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk

Contact us

You can request this information in another language or format at www.northyorks.gov.uk/accessibility

How will Early Help support you and your family?



What is Early Help?

Early Help is the term used by all agencies to describe North Yorkshire's approach to providing early support to families at any stage of a child's life when a problem or difficulty first arises. Early Help supports children, young people and their families to be happy, healthy and safe, as well as helping them to achieve their potential and increasing their ability to manage life's challenges.

Early Help is not a designated team; it is a way that EVERYONE works together to support the need of children, young people and their families.

The aim of Early Help is to build on people's capacity and resources to manage their own dilemmas, resolve their own difficulties and prevent further problems in the future. Early Help is the response offered by all services in contact with children, young people and their families when an unmet need is identified.

It can offer support to families from pre-birth to adolescents with all sorts of issues from parenting, employment and school attendance to emotional wellbeing or anti-social behaviour.

Why would I need Early Help?

Being a parent or carer is one of the most important and rewarding jobs there is but is also one of the hardest. Parents and carers are key to providing children with a happy and stable childhood. If one person in the family has a problem, then the whole family is often affected. Therefore, if the whole family is supported it is more likely things will improve.

How does Early Help work?

By identifying and building on your strengths as a family we can help and support you to find long term solutions to your issues, as well as developing your skills to help you manage any future challenges. We will bring together different people who will be able to offer the support you need. This could include schools, health teams, early year's settings, housing and other key partners. But don't worry, while a lot of people might be working with you, there will be one key person who will support you and co-ordinate the help you need.

It is important that you are able to build a relationship of trust with your worker. They will be open, honest and respectful to you and provide support and challenge when needed.

What is a Team Around the Family meeting?

A Team Around the Family, sometimes known as TAF means just that – a team of people who will work with you and your family to ensure that you get the support you need when you need it.

How does it work?

Step 1 – Talk to you

Your Early Help Practitioner will ask about any problems and discuss what support might help, they will also want to know what is going well. They will ask some questions and complete your Early Help Assessment and together you can agree a plan. This assessment will have all the information needed, so it means you will not need to keep telling your story to lots of different people.

Step 2 – The Plan

Your Early Help Practitioner will arrange a meeting with you and other people who might be able to help. At the meeting they will talk about the kind of support available, and agree a plan with you of how to help and support, this is called the Team Around the Family meeting (TAF). This plan will clearly set out who will do what and when it will be done by.

Step 3 – The Review

Everyone will come back together to see how things are going and to agree if there needs to be any changes. The review meetings will happen every 6 weeks and will continue for as long as you need them, to ensure the support provided is making a difference to you and your family.

