

Early Help Transformation in Bolton

In Bolton, we are undertaking a transformation of Early Help. Partners from key agencies, across Bolton have come together to form an Early Help Steering Group to oversee and drive the changes.

The partnership is committed to ensuring we regularly communicate to our workforce, the developments within Early Help. This communication is one of the ways we will aim to keep you regularly updated about current and future activity.

For more information, you can speak with your agency representative on the steering group, or contact Nicola Murphy, Strategic Lead- Targeted Early Help

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What's coming up next?

- Revised Early Help Assessment and associated processes. This will include a new assessment form as we move further towards a whole family approach.
- The developments in Early Help are a key element of the new safeguarding thresholds (FFA) document which will be launched in April 2021.
- Initial scoping of the workforce development requirements for Early Help work to enable us to develop a clear training offer across the partnership, that supports the workforce to undertaken Early Help support themselves, as well as supporting them to act as Lead Professional.
- Go live with the first phase of Team Around the School. This will be a key part of the programme to help us learn and develop together with schools to understand how this model will work best. A scale up is planned for the future to include more schools.

What's happening now?

- The new Targeted Early Help Service is now operational. Although, the structure is not yet fully populated and therefore capacity is very limited. Recruitment is underway and the service should be fully operational by April/May 2021.
- Final planning for the Team Around the School model to enable the first phase to go live.
- Working groups have been established to progress key pieces of work; these are:
 - Early Help Strategy
 - Early Help Assessment and Processes Review
 - Evidence Based Programmes Review
 - Early Help Workforce Development
 - Early Help Data and Systems

We will provide more details on how the work within these groups progresses in future communications.

- As we progress with revising the Early Help Strategy, it is important that we develop a shared vision for Early Help in Bolton. A session dedicated to this has been planned, partners from across the workforce, are invited to attend and contribute to the development of the Vision.
- The Targeted Early Help Service is working alongside Children's Social Care colleagues to develop an 'Integrated Front Door'. This will allow for joint triage of referrals as well as support and guidance for referrers in navigating processes and Pathways. Further information about this will be made available in due course.

Key Dates

- 4th March 2021, 9.30am-12.30pm: Early Help Vision Session
- April 2021: Launch of the revised safeguarding thresholds (FFA)
- April/May 2021: Early Help Strategy Launch
- May 2021: Integrated Front Door Launch