



Multi-agency Early Help Strategy 2024-2027

STRATEGY AIMS:

This five-year multi-agency Early Help Strategy sets out our ambition as a system-wide partnership, to support families at the earliest opportunity to prevent needs escalating and provide services within communities that families have easy access to. To achieve this, we have developed a shared set of strategic priorities:

1. Developing a preventative culture and practice across the system
2. Making smarter use of information to support the delivery of better outcomes for families
3. Ensuring children and young people have access to support and resources within their communities

ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Start Life Well	Live and Age Well	Prosper and Flourish	Clean and Tidy	A Strong and Sustainable Council
<p>'Early Help' means providing support as soon as difficulties emerge, at any point in a child's life, from the early years through to the teenage years, to improve outcomes for children and young people. Providing help by the right person, at the right time, is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later; and if delivered in the right way, can also prevent further needs arising (and the associated costs of more specialist support). Key to achieving this ambition is a boroughwide, multi-agency commitment to providing effective, proportionate, and high-quality early help to support families to have their needs met in their local communities.</p>	<p>The best start in life shapes future adult outcomes. This strategy sets out how we will support children and families at the earliest opportunity to fulfil their potential into adulthood.</p>	<p>Early Help is particularly important for those children living in our most disadvantaged wards, with the wider longer-term benefits for their health, wellbeing, and economic prospects into Adulthood. In addition, a robust early help approach considers the needs of the whole family, including the parent/carers and aims to support them with housing, benefits and employability options.</p>	<p>Children are the future stewards of our environment the formative years set the tone for what lays ahead.</p>	<p>Improving outcomes for children from birth is shown to improve outcomes throughout life, thus enabling them to be a member of their community.</p>

PRINCIPLES

Principle 1	Principle 2	Principle 3
Developing a preventative culture and practice across the system.	Making smarter use of information for better outcomes for families.	Ensuring children and young people have access to support and resources in their community.



ACTIONS

Principles	Actions and timescales	Survive: Years 1 - 2 – Quarter to be delivered 2024/25, 2025/26	Strive: Years: 3 - 5	Thrive: Years 6 - 10
Principle 1 - Developing a preventative culture and practice across the system	Map out all existing networks across the system and following the findings, explore how to better work collaboratively with the VCS, Health and Schools so that we have a shared system leadership around early help and everyone understands their responsibility to intervene early.	2024-2025 Mapping and analysis	Greater partnership working and challenge	
	Further develop relationships with school leaders and other partners to develop an action plan to increase the number of Early Help Assessments/ Our Family Plans done by partners.	2024-2026 relationship building (ongoing)	Action plan to be co-produced and implemented	
	Implement our Practice Model including work with partners to use a relational approach in their work with children and families which includes being trauma-informed, strength-based and family-focussed; strengthening family relationships.	2024-2025 briefings/workshops for targeted schools	To be determined based on evaluation following implementation	
	Work with the South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership (STSCP) to support the workforce to identify and address neglect of children and young people as early as possible, to prevent lasting harm.	2024-25 Communicate the STSCP Neglect Strategy to teams	To be determined based on evaluation following implementation	
Principle 2 - Making smarter use of information for better outcomes for families.	Review our information sharing processes across all agencies in line with the "Supporting Families Programme" Principles. Implement any changes required to information sharing protocols.	2024-25 Review the arrangements	2025-26 Implement any changes required	
	Explore the sharing of datasets across Education and Children's social care/early help so we are better able to track children's needs and intervene as early as possible.	2024-25 Capita project to identify a shared UPN for every child via NHS number (ongoing)	2025-26 New Service Manager for data/systems to lead action plan	
Principle 3 - Ensuring children and young people have access to support and resources in their community.	Implement the Family Hub Delivery Plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Parent/infant relationships ■ Infant feeding ■ Home Learning Environment 	2024-25 (ongoing)	Depending on Autumn spending review	
	Continue to deliver Making Attendance Everyone's Business.	2024-2026	20204, review the delivery plan for 2025-27	
	Implement Family Networks and encourage our partners to do the same via practice model briefings.	2024-2025	To be determined based on evaluation following implementation	

Measure of success	Performance indicator/outcome	Outturn position 2023/24	Survive: Years 1 - 2	Strive: Years 3 - 5	Thrive: Years 6 - 10
Performance measures The overall long-term success of this strategy will be measured by population level KPIs covering health and wellbeing, education, social care and crime, including a reduction in high numbers of children in our care.	The number of partner-led Early Help Assessments being completed per quarter.	181 (as at 30/09/24)			
	The percentage of Children and Young People who did not require social worker intervention within 12 months of an Early Help Assessment episode closing.	81% (as at 30/06/2024)			
	The number of successful PBR claims through the Supporting Families Programme.	209 (2023/2024)			



To see the full strategy document, go to:
www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/corporate-plan

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