

1. What is Early Help?

Early help means taking action to support a child, young person or their family as soon as a problem emerges.

It can be required at any stage in a child's life, from pre-birth to adolescence, and applies to any problem or need that the family can't deal with alone.

Early help can lead to better outcomes for children, prevent problems escalating or overwhelming families, to ensure all of their needs are met so they can flourish

2. Global Prevention

This aims to provide education and encouragement to empower children, young people and their families.

Involves a partnership approach to provide a wide range of activities, advice and guidance.

Partnership offer published on WSCB website including Hive Youth Zone, Children's Centres, Health Services in Schools etc.

Success includes good take up of activities and services and positive feedback from children and families.

3. Focused Prevention

Aims to prevent anticipated need arising by supporting children, young people and families.

This includes providing a range of preventative activity, offering guidance and signposting.

Partnership offer published on WSCB website including global prevention, 2 yr old funding for education, Early Years family workers, alcohol and substance education etc.

Success includes increase in early help activity.

7. Further information

Further information and guidance is available on the WSCB website:

<https://www.wirral safeguarding.co.uk/professionals/what-is-early-help/>

This includes:

- A Guide to Early Help & Prevention guidance document
- A Community Matters booklet
- A Resource Information and A Key Worker Pack
- The Early Help Strategy

Multi-agency EHAT training is also available through the WSCB



Early Help Offer

4. Community Matters—Targeted Early Support

Community Matters is a new collaboration between Children's Services and the voluntary, community and faith sector to help families and children get the help they need, when they need it. It's targeted support aims to meet needs and reduce the likelihood of referral to Children's Services.

When need for a child or family arises there are two options:

- a. You can initiate an early help episode by completing an Early Help Assessment (EHAT) at any time
- b. You can make a referral to Community Matters by contacting Home-Start Wirral who co-ordinate the programme

6. Family Matters—Reactive Intervention—

Family Matters works collaboratively with Children's Social Care to reduce the need for statutory intervention or children becoming looked after. There are 2 priority areas; Edge of Care support and targeted Family support. A Lead Worker co-ordinates a multi-agency Early help Assessment (EHAT) would be undertaken to help identify a Family Plan, underpinned by SFEF to address needs.

Family Matters services include targeted family support, pre-birth and infant team, adolescent response team, family group conferencing etc.

Success includes reduction in referrals to Children's Social Care.

5. Community Matters—Targeted Early Support

A Lead Worker co-ordinates a multi-agency Early help Assessment (EHAT) would be undertaken to help identify a Family Plan, underpinned by SFEF to address needs.

Community Matters services includes WEB, Wired, Safer Wirral Hub, Caritas. Fender Community, youth projects—GIRLS, LADS, parenting, mental health support, advocacy, family support etc.

Success includes reduction in contacts with Children's Social Care.

<https://www.wirral safeguarding.co.uk/professionals/what-is-early-help/>