



Bury Children's Trust Partnership

EARLY HELP

7 minute briefing

What is Early Help?

Early Help is about taking action as soon as possible to tackle problems before they become more difficult to address. The need for early help can be at any time in the life of a child/young person, from pre-birth onwards and applies to any problem that a family can't deal with alone.

The Children's Trust Partnership Vision is that: Children and Young People get Early Help to overcome and reduce the likelihood that challenges and adverse experience will have a long term impact on their health, wellbeing and lifetime opportunities.

Right Help, Right Time, Right Person

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A whole system approach

Early Help is not the sole responsibility of discreet teams or services. It requires a 'whole system approach'. Led by the Children's Trust Programme Board, partner agencies are working together to develop a shared understanding and a common approach to recognising and responding to need, focussing on what children and families **can do** rather than identifying what is wrong and stepping in to fix things. This approach will empower families to be able to overcome problems, with support

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Eyes Wide Open

Eyes Wide Open is a campaign to ensure that every contact counts for early help. Everyone who works with children, young people and families or goes into their homes should be have their 'eyes wide open' and know what to do. Eyes Wide Open includes a range of initiatives including:

- Regular Children's Trust lunchtime learning on issues affecting children, young people and families. These multi-agency sessions increase awareness of the signs and symptoms of a problem and what to do. They are promoted in the [Children's Trust weekly e-mail](#)
- The [Early Help toolkit](#) provides fact sheets and links to further information on a range of issues affecting children and young people.
- An Eyes Wide Open multi-agency training resource for staff going into people's homes or working with children, young people and families to help them be more aware of what to look out for and what to do.

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Early Help Delivery Model

Early Help in Bury has been delivered through a range of different teams and services which has too often resulted in duplicated effort and poor service user experience. The new Early Help delivery model will be locality based and support communities across the five neighbourhoods; this will be delivered from locality teams that will be located in Whitefield, Radcliffe and Bury. The teams will use a key worker approach to provide coordinated support that is family focussed and strength-based. The immediate impact for families will be to reduce the duplication and confusion of having numerous professionals who are all working independently of each other.

The teams will provide a focus for localities, providing advice, information and support to families and professionals.

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Pathways to Early Help

It is the responsibility of every practitioner who works with children, young people and families to support them when an early help need is identified. The Story So Far is a document voluntarily completed by the family with the support of the practitioner. It enables the family to set out the need along with their strengths, and provides information from all services involved, resulting in a coordinated early help plan for the family coordinated by the practitioner or other key worker best placed to work with the family. It is recorded on the Early Help database (held by the Early Help locality teams) so that progress can be monitored and is a point of reference for any future interventions.

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The Team Around approach - School (TAS), Pre-School (TAPS), and Post School (TAS+)

Schools, nurseries and colleges are integral to the Early Help approach and will provide a pathway to early help for many children and their families. The development of Bury **TAS** means that all schools will have a named Early Help social worker and Early Help worker from the locality team. For those schools with greater need, there will also be meetings on a half-termly, termly or yearly basis (dependent upon need). The TAS forms part of a wider network of early help support for schools, including the new Inclusion Partnerships.

Using the same approach, **TAPS** focuses on early years. Health Visitors integrated with locality teams will bring cases of emerging early help concerns to locality meetings using the Story So Far to agree and plan support with relevant partners.

The **TAS+** is a further development of the TAS approach for young people post school in college, education or training. This pathway will be developed during the Autumn of 2019.

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7. Further Information

The [Bury Children's Trust](#) website provides more information, including links to the Early Help Strategy; Early Help Toolkit, the Children's Trust weekly e-mail and more. Or e-mail ChildrensTrust@bury.gov.uk