



CHILDREN
& FAMILY
SUPPORT

EARLY HELP AND THE EARLY HELP PATHWAY TO CHANGE

Information for parents and carers



Warwickshire
County Council

What is Early Help?

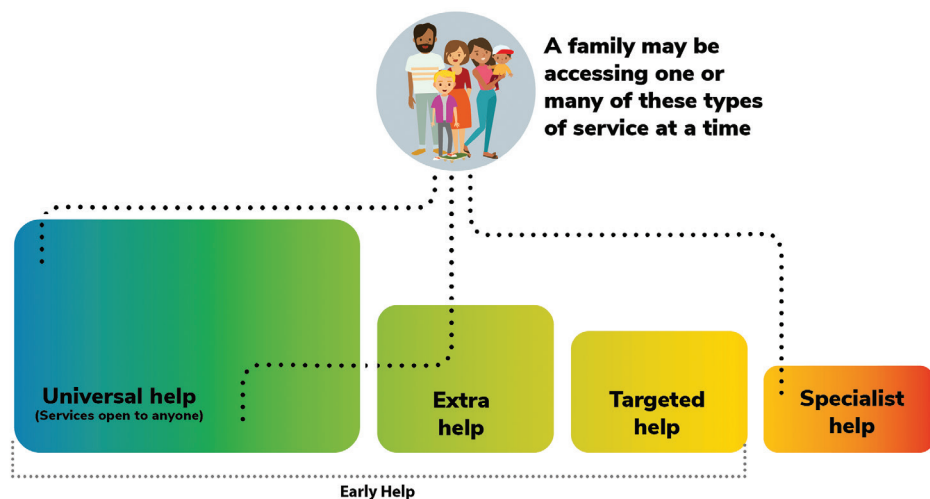
There are times in family life when things might be difficult or someone in the family is having problems. When you get help for issues as soon as possible, things can get better much quicker for your child and family than if the problem was left unresolved. Early help gets your family the right support at the right time.

Is this something I have to do?

No. Early Help is voluntary and no one can make you access Early Help. It's there to help you and your family at the right time to make things better. We will involve you in the process every step of the way and will work with you to find out what help you need. You and your child's voice in this process is very important as it will help the professionals supporting you know what is happening and how they can best help you.

How could you help me and my family?

We offer universal support for families as well as targeted help. You can access universal support through our webpages where we have useful information, advice and guidance on a variety of topics as well as courses for parents and carers. Help is also at hand from Family Support Workers on the Family Support Line (01926 412412). Some situations will benefit from a "team around the family" with professionals and the family working together in a joint, coordinated way. This is called an Early Help Pathway to Change and includes an assessment and review meetings.



What is the Early Help Pathway Assessment?

The Early Help Pathway to Change is an assessment which families can access to help them and professionals understand what is happening for them. Those professionals can then work together as a team with you and your family to help improve things for your family as a whole.



How does it work?

A professional who is already working with you will normally lead the process. They will work with you to identify what is causing any difficulties in your family life. Alongside other professionals, they will help you to resolve these issues by providing the right support. Specific actions are discussed in the meetings that you will attend. Everybody in the meeting is clear about what needs to happen and by when, and this is recorded on an action plan, which is reviewed regularly. The intervention is short term and normally lasts no more than six months.

Who is my point of contact in this process?

A lead professional will be appointed who will keep in regular contact with you and your family.

Who will have my information?

Each families needs are unique so this will depend on the services that are supporting your identified needs. We work closely with other agencies, however we will only ever share information on a need to know basis. There may be times when we will need to talk to other agencies to make sure you and your family are safe. This could be because a child or adult is at risk of harm or if a crime could be prevented. For more information view the Warwickshire County Council privacy notice online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy.



How do I access Early Help?

You can speak with a professional already working with your family, they can start the process on your behalf.

You can also access information, advice and guidance from the following services:

Family Information Service

Information, advice and one-to-one support for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 across Warwickshire on issues including family relationships, finance, housing, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), childcare and health and wellbeing.

T: 01926 742274 E: fis@warwickshire.gov.uk

Get regular updates, advice and information from the Family Information Service by following @WarksFIS on Twitter and @WarwickshireFIS on Facebook, or sign up to the weekly newsletter by visiting www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parentupdates

The Family Support Line

Family support workers are available across Warwickshire to listen, support and offer advice and guidance to families on parenting and all aspects of family life.

To speak to a family support worker over the telephone, call 01926 412412, Monday to Friday between 9am - 4pm.

Parenting Workshops and Programmes

There are a range of free online and face-to-face workshops and programmes available for parents and carers in Warwickshire to access including support with managing your child's behaviour, sleep, routines and boundaries, safe home happy home and more.

Workshops can be booked via Eventbrite.

Visit www.eventbrite.co.uk and search for 'Warwickshire Children and Families' (make sure the 'search for online events' filter is on) or scan the QR code.



To find out more about the support available for you and your family visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies

