



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Shropshire's Early Help Strategy 2023-2025



We are very proud to introduce the refreshed Early Help Strategy for Shropshire.

Our strategy has been designed to align with The Shropshire Plan which is anchored by 'The Four Healthies', healthy people, healthy environment, healthy economy and a healthy organisation in Shropshire. Our aim is to empower everyone in Shropshire to live their best lives. We believe that everyone, regardless of their situation, deserves every chance to live a fulfilling and healthy life.

Our goal is to provide a caring service with a simple question in mind: "How can we help?" This means bringing positive changes by providing the right support, at the right time, in the right place, to help families overcome their challenges.

Throughout our Early Help Transformation Programme, we've been all ears, actively gathering views from children, young people, families, partners, and our dedicated Early Help team through insightful and thoughtful discussions. These valuable insights are at the heart of our strategy, which shapes how we provide Early Help services in Shropshire.



Shropshire is committed to delivering the Supporting Families Programme through Early Help, by creating strong partnerships across the Early Help System and building a mature data infrastructure with strong governance to provide a whole family approach to families in need of help, to prevent their needs escalating and to help achieve sustainable change.

We are dedicated to supporting families in a more person centred and holistic way, and will work closely with families to build on their strengths to help them make the changes they want. It's all about teamwork and giving families the power to shape their own future.

In Shropshire, our goal is to help children grow into confident, independent adults with life skills for a brighter future. We are dedicated to ensuring every child, young person, and family can thrive, be happy, and stay safe.

"Early Help is to make sure families have what they need" - Child/Young Person

"Early intervention to help prevent any situation worsening" - Parent/Carer

"A support group who help families who need some support with development and school, domestic abuse, budgeting etc" - Parent/Carer

"Support for the whole family" - Child/Young Person

"Support and advice from a wide range of services and professionals" - Parent/Carer



Early Help is everyone's business

You said Early Help is a team effort, not just one service. It's lots of teams working together with you and your family at the centre.

Our goal is to strengthen our relationships in communities, where we all work together, combining our ideas with other services to help families in Shropshire.



Early Help In Action
 A parent reached out to the Parenting Helpline for assistance with her child's behaviour challenges and struggles with setting boundaries. The consultation revealed the parent was also struggling with their mental health. The Practitioner helped the parent create a plan for improvement, including joining a group. Just a few weeks later, the parent attended the group, initially observing quietly. However, by week 5, she actively participated, sharing positive changes in her parenting and increased confidence in managing various aspects of life.

Early Help In Action
 Whilst undertaking some detached youth work, the Youth Support Team met a year 11 young person. They had been excluded from school before finishing their GCSE exams and had not found a further education setting to go to, having missed a few interviews for local colleges. The young person had a keen interest in plumbing but, did not know how to get support to contact the colleges as their father was in poor health. The young person worked with an Information, Advice and Guidance Worker who supported the young person in contacting the college and setting up an interview and subsequently offered a placement on the Level One course including a clear plan of how they could progress onto higher levels. Later that year the team met up with the young person during their detached youth work. The young person is still at college, enjoying the course, learning new skills every day and they are able to get support from the college pastoral team when they need it.

"If Shropshire were 100 children..."

65 Are school-ready by the end of reception	18 Are entitled to free school meals	9 Are from a minority ethnic group	14 Live in absolute low-income households
4 Have received Early Help support	5 Are learning English as an additional language	6 Have a long-term illness or medical condition	13 Are receiving SEN support
5 Live in single parent households	78 Have a healthy weight at 4-5 years old	1 Are young carers	
96 Are in education or work based training at 16+			

The cost of late intervention in Shropshire is £72 million. (The Cost of Late Intervention: EIF Analysis 2016)

Early Help In Action
 In the Early Help team, everyone collaborates to support families with Special Educational Needs and disabilities (SEND). This responsibility is shared among team members who consider the family. Family workers, working with external partners, recently addressed a family with diverse challenges, including trauma, SEND (Autism, Global Delay, ADHD), school issues, and family dynamics. A Family Plan was crafted through a comprehensive Early Help assessment, involving all family members and professionals. The Family Practitioner coordinated support, which involved the school, BeeU, a Play Practitioner, and themselves. By advocating for the children, facilitating communication, and implementing interventions, the family is now well-equipped to manage their children's care needs.



You have helped us to identify our priorities as...

- Family Relationships & Parenting Support
- SEND
- Family Finances
- Mental Health
- Early Intervention and Community Support



The Shropshire Early Help Approach

MULTI-AGENCY COLLABORATION

We believe in the "right help at the right time from the right people" for families.

Our plan is all about the different groups offering help in a timely manner to families. This means partners like schools, doctors and community groups working together to help families when they need it most. When we all collaborate, we can make sure families get the support they need.

FAMILY-CENTRED APPROACH

Making families the heart of everything we do.

A family-first approach in Early Help believes that families know what's best for themselves. Professionals are here to support and help families reach their goals. It's about building trust, positive relationships, and improving outcomes by addressing each family's unique needs. When we help families build skills and confidence in their interactions, we create the best environment for children's health, development, and well-being.

EARLY IDENTIFICATION, PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

Making every conversation count.

Our plan focuses on listening to families right away, making every conversation count. This way, families get the help they need to prevent problems getting worse. Shropshire is being proactive in providing safer communities for everyone. As part of this, we are here to support all kinds of services to help families. Whether it's general advice or specific support, we'll guide you to what fits your family.

We are working to achieve Shropshire's 4 priorities by:

Early Intervention

Partnership Working

Skills and employment

Safe Communities

Communicating Well

Aligning our services

How we put Early Help into practice:

Families whose needs are met by on-going services such as schools, GP's, Health Visitors and Dentists alongside the love, care and protection of parents, carers and communities. Some limited intervention from a universal service may be needed to avoid arising needs or to meet a single identified need. The majority of children living in the UK will fall into this category.

What do you need to do?

Access support in your community.

Call First Point of Contact 0345 6789021, Option 2 for Early Help and Support Team (EHAST).

Email the Family Information Service - shropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk

Families needing information and advice

Families needing help

Children and young people with additional needs (not just Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), that can be met through a single agency response or through agencies working together to provide a coordinated partnership response. The support required may only be short term, but if ignored, these issues could escalate.

What do you need to do?

Single agency should talk to the family and carry out an Early Help Assessment (EHA) to ensure the child receives the right support, in the right place, at the right time. A Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting must take place to agree a coordinated response which will be detailed in a Family Plan.



Families who have a child in need, at risk of harm or requiring specialist services

Families needing more help

Targeted provision for children with multiple issues or complex needs where a coordinated multi-agency response is required. Despite Early Help interventions via a single agency or partnership working, these are children and families whose needs are not being met due to their range, depth and significance. This makes them very vulnerable and at risk of poor outcomes. Recognising the importance of relationships in identifying the most appropriate lead professional.

What do you need to do?

Call First Point of Contact 0345 6789021, Option 1 for Children's Social Care.

This may include making a referral to Children's Social Care, signposting to specialist services or a recommendation might be that an Early Help Assessment is appropriate.

What do you need to do?

Practitioners should talk to the family and carry out an Early Help Assessment (EHA) to ensure the child receives the right support, in the right place, at the right time. A Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting must take place to agree a multi-agency coordinated response which will be detailed in a Family Plan.