

## Early Help Lead Professional (LP)

When writing an early help assessment, the person completing it should consider who will be the lead professional to guide that family through the period of support. A lead professional must be identified with the family at the time of writing the EHA. If it is not the person completing the assessment then an alternative person, the family knows, should be nominated (with consent from both family and nominated person).

*Please note: an EHA should not be completed without an identified LP \**

### **What is a Lead professional?**

A Lead professional is required when an Early Help Assessment has been completed and a number of different services/agencies have been identified to support a family. The Lead professional can come from any service and the family must agree to them taking this role. This can transfer to a family support worker whilst they are involved (with agreement of all parties) and may revert to original LP or newly appointed LP if the EHA remains open.

### **The responsibilities of a Lead professional:**

- \* Act as a single point of contact for the family
- \* Coordinate the package of support and monitor progress
- \* Ensure all multi-agency partners are kept updated of through regular 'Team around the Family' meetings (every 6-8 weeks).
- \* Keep the Early Help Coordinator team informed of the progress of the family by sending in TAF review document.
- \* Complete the case closure report when the EHA closes.
- \* Reduce overlap and inconsistency in the services received.

### **What needs to be considered when identifying a Lead professional?**

The following should be considered when identifying which practitioner should take the role of Lead professional:

- \* The wishes of the child, young person and family
- \* The predominant needs of the child, young person or family
- \* The skills, ability and capacity to provide a leadership and coordinating role in relation to other practitioners involved with the family
- \* The level of trust built up with the child, young person or family
- \* Previous or potential relationship with the family
- \* An ability to draw in and influence universal and specialist services
- \* An understanding of surrounding support systems available to support the universal and specialist services

**Training on how to run an effective TAF is available through the following link:**

<https://www.herefordshirecpd.co.uk/>

\* For help and support, please contact the early help co-ordinators:

[earlyhelp@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@herefordshire.gov.uk)