

## Confidentiality

The information which you and your family provide will only be shared with your family's consent. However, there may be times when the people working with you need to share information. They should always discuss this with you first, but may not if, for example:

- ◆ They need to find out urgently if a child is at risk of harm
- ◆ To help a child who is at risk of harm
- ◆ When an adult is at risk of harm or
- ◆ To help prevent or detect a serious crime.

*The early help documentation will be stored securely in accordance with the Herefordshire Council privacy policy for a minimum of 6 years after closure of early Help.*

See Council Privacy policy for data sharing agreement :

[Children's wellbeing services \(safeguarding\) privacy notice – Herefordshire Council](#)

If you think an Early Help assessment would help you or your family, please contact a professional who can help you or **CHAT** on **01432 260261**.



Herefordshire Council  
Children and Families  
Plough Lane  
Hereford  
HR4 0LE

 Herefordshire Council



## Early help for families



**Early Help means providing the Right Help at the Right Time to help children and families work through any difficulties they may have in their life.**

**Contact: CHAT (Children's help and advice team) on**

**01432 260261**

## Early help for families

As a family or young person, there may be times when you need some extra support. If you can, talk to a professional you feel comfortable sharing this information with.

They may suggest that all of the information is recorded on an Early Help Assessment form. With your consent, this form can be shared with other professionals and services that can offer additional support to you or your family.

The Early Help Assessment form means you will not have to repeat the same story to different workers. An action plan is agreed with you to make sure you get the right sort of help.

Early help can support you with:

- Family relationships
- Behaviours that are challenging
- Housing and financial issues
- Any many other issues affecting your family.

We run free parenting groups . Check out our website for details:

[Being a parent – Herefordshire Council](#)

For more information about early help:

[Being a parent – Herefordshire Council](#)

## How does Early Help work?

The Early Help Assessment is made up of 3 Parts

**Consent:** This part consists of your consent and basic information about you or your family.

**Assessment** to provide a in-depth description of What is working well for your family, what are you worried about

**Action planning:** What needs to happen to bring about change. The action plan will enable support to be coordinated from different agencies or professionals that may or may not already be supporting you and your family.

Once the form is written, you will receive a copy. The Early Help Assessment is only shared with those professionals and services that you require support from. The Early Help Assessment is owned by you and can be cancelled at your request at any time. A lead practitioner may be appointed who will coordinate the services and review your support plan regularly with you.

## How will Early Help support be reviewed?

The Lead practitioner will agree with you the way in which your Early Help Assessment will be reviewed, through regular Team around the Family (TAF) meetings and Early Help Multi- Agency Meetings.

- ◆ TAF meetings are small meetings that you attend alongside the different agencies needed to support you and your family.
- ◆ Multi-agency Meetings (MAGs) have representatives from different agencies attending including health, education, children's centres, voluntary and community sector and local housing. You don't need to attend these, your lead practitioner will attend on your behalf.

The support you are receiving will be reviewed and if you require further support this can be put in place.

