Southwark Early Help Localities

What is Early Help?

The Early Help Localities provides integrated support to children, young people and their families. The key objective of the service is to offer practical advice, support and direct case work to prevent issues escalating and requiring statutory intervention.

We aim to intervene 'early' in terms of the age of a child, and early in terms of an issue arising in the life of a child – from pre-birth to nineteen.

We work closely with a range of statutory services (including health and children's social care), voluntary organisations e.g. Solace Children's Centres, schools and early years settings.

@lb_southwark   facebook.com/southwarkcouncil

Southwark Council
southwark.gov.uk

How do we operate?

The Early Help Localities is organised across four localities and a central team, with each team comprising a range of professionals including:

- Education welfare officers
- Social workers
- Specialist CAMHS workers;
- Family support workers
- Evaluation and administrative officers
- Inclusion manager
- Senior education welfare officer

The work of the Early Help Localities is based around a Team Around the Child (TAC) approach, with designated lead professionals responsible for the co-ordination of case work. The lead professional can be designated from any of the agencies who form part of the TAC but is most often the person who has most contact with a child and their family and has developed the type of relationship which is most likely to secure a positive outcome.

The service is committed to operating in a way which is:

- Accessible
- Responsive
- Timely
- Practical

- Evidence-based and informed by up to date good practice.
- Collaborative – making the best use of the different skills within our team and with other partners.
- Outcome-focused

In addition the service has a signposting role and works closely with a wide range of partners in order to deliver holistic case work. We are part of the MASH and work alongside colleagues from a range of services on a daily basis. Our partnership work with CSC is strong and we have developed clear processes to enable cases to be supported by the right professionals at the right time. On-going development to further refine this work is continuing within the context of Families Matter.

What can we offer?

- Telephone help desk support to families, schools, early years setting and other agencies
- Advice and support to schools and settings at a strategic level to secure good outcomes for children and families, and to secure good inspection outcomes (e.g. improving attendance, reducing exclusions)
- Training for staff in schools and other agencies (e.g. common assessment framework, safeguarding, emotional development)

- Pre-referral consultative support to schools e.g. Team Around the School to consider issues across the school and identify specific areas for targeted intervention
- Case work with children, young people and families referred via common assessment framework (CAF)

What does our case work look like?

Our practitioners can provide direct support to children and families in their homes, in schools, and Children's Centres. The type of help offered depends upon the needs of the children and families referred, and can be delivered in a flexible way to ensure the best outcomes.

Children and families are usually referred to Early Help when they have some additional needs which cannot be met solely by the universal services such as health visiting, schools and early years settings.

The areas with which we are mainly asked to help include:

- Attendance at school
- Emotional and behavioural needs
- Parenting skills
- Delay in development and learning
- Identification and assessment of special educational needs
- Securing early years provision

- Post-diagnosis support for families of young children with ASC

Areas in which we are able to help in collaboration with partner agencies include:

- Speech and language delay
- Domestic abuse
- Parental mental health
- Child and adolescent mental health
- Substance misuse
- Special educational needs
- Housing needs
- Employment advice

We offer a particularly flexible service and our teams are proactive in addressing a wide range of needs directly or via signposting and working collaboratively with other agencies

Referral Process

A CAF form will need to be completed with the parent and child and the consented referral form will need to be sent to earlyhelp@southwark.gov.uk

Contacts

Surma Shah (Early Help Localities Manager)
Tel: 020 7525 0436 Email: surma.shah@southwark.gov.uk

Kym Winup Early Help (Locality Lead Central Team)
Tel: 020 7525 2716 Email: kym.winup@southwark.gov.uk

Barbara Mustafa (Early Help Locality Lead Peckham, Nunhead, Peckham Rye
Team) Tel: 020 7525 5205 Email: barbara.mustafa@southwark.gov.uk

Beverley Swack (Early Help Locality Lead Camberwell and Dulwich)
Tel: 020 7525 4719 Email: beverley.swack@southwark.gov.uk

Mark Crick (Early Help Locality Lead Borough Bankside and Walworth)
Tel: 020 7525 2716 Email: mark.crick@southwark.gov.uk

Tom Morris (Early Help Locality Lead Bermondsey and Rotherhithe).
Start date 17 October 2016 . Contact details to be confirmed.

Early Help generic contact

Tel: 020 7525 2714
Email: earlyhelp@southwark.gov.uk

Further advice and help for your family

The Family Information Service can offer information and advice about local
services that can help you, as well as being able to support you with finding
childcare and applying for a school place. You can search their online
directory at:

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200017/children_and_families/545/family_inf
ormation_service or email: family.info@southwark.gov.uk

Southwark's local offer also provides useful information and support for
parents and young people around special educational needs and disability.
Please visit their website at:

http://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/ or Email: sias@southwark.gov.uk

Southwark school admissions team can assist with finding and applying for a
local school place. Tel: 020 7525 5337
Email: schools.admissions@southwark.gov.uk