

What is Early Help and Prevention Service?

It comprises a wide combination of services for children, young people aged 0-19 and their families, which respond to a range of needs up to and including targeted Tier 3 provision. Delivery is led by both professionals and trained volunteers at a variety of venues, including family homes, schools, community centres and the city's Family Hubs.

Universal Services include Community Nurse-led Child Health Clinics and Health Reviews, volunteer-led Stay & Play Groups for children under 5, volunteer-led advice for parents/carers of those aged 5-19, Dadzclub sessions facilitated by the Parenting Network, breastfeeding peer support led by Breastfeeding Network volunteers and School Nurse/Child Health advice and support via the phone and/or drop-ins. School/Community Nurses also provide short bespoke interventions to address identified unmet health needs.

Specific provision for Children with Disabilities, Young Carers and LGBTQ + young people also come under the remit of the Early Help and Prevention Service (please refer to separate One Minute Guides regarding these areas).

The targeted Tier 3 offer for 0-5 age group is led by Health Visitors, who undertake the Lead professional role for the family.

The targeted Tier 3 offer for 5-19s is provided by the Early Help Teams, which include a number of Specialist family Support Workers. The latter are linked to specific locality teams, but are available to provide citywide Team around the Worker support. Specialist areas include: parenting, substance use, education, housing, mental health, Exploitation, Behaviour change and loss and bereavement .

There are 3 Social Workers that are based in this team to support threshold conversations.

Why is it important?

The Early Help and Prevention Service aims to empower families to both develop and sustain stronger futures for themselves. The range of provision within the Service's remit ensures that the 'right level of support is given at the right time and that families retain ownership of the process throughout.

The Early Help Teams in each locality play a major role in the ongoing development of the MATS and specifically within the continuous improvement of the Network Locality meetings.

How do we do it?

There is open access to the universal service offer, details of which are available on the website and from the Family Hubs (see contact details below).

There are two routes for referrals into targeted Tier 3 services namely via either the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) or Step Down from locality Social Care Teams. Referrals are received into the service are discussed at allocation meetings. The allocation meetings are attended by Early Help and Health management who identify the most appropriate resource to meet the families need.

Restorative casework supervision is undertaken throughout the involvement.

Early Help interventions are based on the needs of the family and would usually be 6 months duration.



One Minute Guide Early Help and Prevention Service



For more information:

Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Early Help and Prevention Senior management Team:

Kelly Pierce- Head of service

Gill Noble –Early Help Service Lead 5-19

Katy Willcox- Early Help Service Lead 5-19

Karin Downer- Operational manager and modern matron 0-19

Family Hub information :

- Paulsgrove Family Hub 023 92385995, Cheltenham Road, Paulsgrove, PO6 3PL.
Paulsgrovetfamilyhub@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
- Northern Parade Family Hub 023 92660866, Doyle Avenue, Hilsea, PO2 9NE.
NorthernParadefamilyhub@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
- Buckland Family Hub 023 92733440, Turner Road, Buckland, Po1 4PN.
Bucklandfamilyhub@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
- Landport Family Hub 023 92815005, 221 Arundel Street, Portsmouth PO5 4LP.
Landportfamilyhub@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
- Somerstown Family Hub 023 92821816, Omega Street, Southsea, PO5 4LP.
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- Milton Park Family Hub 023 92827392, Perth Road, Southsea, PO4 8EU.
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