

# What is Early Help?

Devon's Early Help offer is there to support families from pre-birth to 19 years old (25 for young people with SEND).

## You might need support from Early Help if:

- You are struggling with parenting or your child / young person's behaviour
- There are arguments or violence in your family
- You are experiencing an abusive relationship
- Somebody in your family is abusing substances
- You or someone in your family are making unhealthy choices
- Your child has special educational needs or a disability

Early Help is **all services** that work with children, young people and families, offering the right support when you need it most. Talk to someone you know or trust (i.e. a GP or support worker) who will connect you with organisations which could offer you support. Your voice and views will be central throughout.

I was 14, not attending school and smoking weed every day. I was referred to a support group through Early Help. Now I'm back in school and not using.

# How do you access it?



You may already have a good relationship with someone, i.e. a support worker, health worker or youth worker. They will be able to sit with you and your child or young person to talk about any issues or concerns that you have.

You may think you or your family are struggling, but every family has strengths and we want to help you build on yours.

Firstly, you have to agree that you want to work with the agencies involved to plan how to support you. This is called giving consent.

If you have a range of difficulties that mean you need more than one organisation to work with you, you may need an Early Help assessment. The worker supporting you (ideally the person who knows you best) will help you with this. This person will be called the Lead Practitioner and will be the person who you will be able to contact.

You might benefit from a 'Team Around the Family' meeting (TAF) where you and other agencies can decide on the support you may need.

The Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting was such a breakthrough, for me, my daughter and my partner.

# Who will know about this?

Generally, information you and your family provides will only be shared with people who need to know about it. Most importantly, it will only be shared with your permission, unless anyone is at risk of being harmed, or if a serious crime can be prevented or solved.

There are a range of services which can help you. The Lead Practitioner can support you to identify which services you would like and support you to access them.

If you're not sure who to talk to, speak to any practitioner you are involved with (i.e. a GP or school). You can also visit Pinpoint [www.pinpointdevon.co.uk](http://www.pinpointdevon.co.uk) which provides information on different services and support groups.

I had a 1-year old who wouldn't sleep - I was referred to a children's centre and did a parenting course. Now my child is 3, he's sleeping much better and I feel I have somewhere to go if I need support.

My son had been going to pre-school for a few weeks when they told me his speech was delayed. They suggested a 'Let's Talk More' assessment.

I didn't realise until I spoke to other parents that the way I was feeling was common and I could get support through my children's centre.

My son was out of my control - he was getting involved in criminal activity and I felt lost. The help and support that he and I have received has helped get things back on track. It was transformational.

I was experiencing mental health difficulties. My husband was misusing drugs and my two year old had developmental delays. I give thanks to all the agencies that have helped my whole family.

I thought all relationships were like mine; I was confused between love and abuse. Thanks to my Domestic Violence Support Worker both my children and I are now safe.

### Contact info/website:

<http://www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org/workers-volunteers/early-help/>

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send-local-offer>

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



# EARLY HELP

Early Help is offered by ALL agencies that work with children, young people and families



If you need further information or a different format phone 0845 155 1015 or email [customer@devon.gov.uk](mailto:customer@devon.gov.uk)

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**Devon Children and Families' Partnership**  
Working together to help support you and your family