



Cheshire East

TOGETHER for Children and Young People

Together we will make Cheshire East a great place to be young

Early Help and Preventative Services in Cheshire
East

The Local Authority's Offer

November 2020



What is Early Help?

Early Help is offering advice, support and direct interventions at the earliest point of identified need. The aims of Early Help are to support families to support themselves, to prevent problems escalating and to reduce the need for statutory or acute interventions.

Who should offer Early Help?

As a basic principle, the first person to offer support to a child or young person and their family should be the professional identifying the issue or the person the family confide in. Early Help is everyone's business.

Cheshire East Council work are amongst a wide range of partners across health, education, police, commissioned, faith and voluntary sector organisations to name but a few, who ensure the right help, at the right time, by the right people is delivered to families who need it, using the Signs of Wellbeing framework. This booklet has been designed to describe the Cheshire East Council offer for Early Help.

- Early Start Hubs (Children's Centres)
- Early Years education and childcare
- Support for children (0-25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) including Cheshire East Local Offer
- Family Support
- Parenting programmes
- Youth Support Service
- Live Well
- Family Information Service
- Locality Support Officers

Early Start Hubs

Early Start Hubs (Children's Centres) work with partner agencies across 3 localities to support children in Cheshire East to receive the Best Start in Life.

Early Start Buildings are located in the following areas;

- **North** - Oakenclough (Wilmslow), Knutsford, Poynton and in Macclesfield; Ash Grove, Hurdsfield and Broken Cross
- **Central** - Congleton & Sandbach
- **South** - Crewe; Oak Tree, The Brooks and Monks Coppenhall and Nantwich

These offer a variety of both group and evidence-based activities for young children and their families, which can be accessed in the Hubs, other venues across Cheshire East or during one-to-one home visits.

- Parenting Skills and Aspirations
- Child and Family Health Needs
- School Readiness

Early Start Hubs have three main priorities:

Early Start Hubs have a universal offer of training and support including a variety of programmes for parents and their children to access in the home and/or their local community.

For more information and to see the full range of services available, please visit:

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/care-and-support-for-children/childrens-centres/introduction-childrens-centres.aspx>

Early Years Education and Childcare

In Cheshire East, there are a range of settings that provide early education and childcare for children aged 0-4. These include pre-schools, day nurseries, childminders, schools with nursery classes and a nursery school. To help parents and carers to take up these early learning opportunities for their children, they can access Free Early Education Entitlement.

Universal 15 Hours Early Education & Childcare Entitlement:

Three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours per week of early education over a minimum of 38 weeks per year, to a maximum of 570 hours over a year. This applies until they reach compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday).

30 Hours Extended Entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds:

Three and four year olds may be eligible for the 30 hours entitlement where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family) and each parent earns a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national living wage, and less than £100,000 per year.

Free Early Education Entitlement for 2 year olds:

Eligible two year olds may access up to 15 hours per week of early education and childcare over a minimum of 38 weeks per year, to a maximum of 570 hours over a year. This applies until the term after their third birthday when they access the universal entitlement for all three and four year olds. The eligibility criteria is based on parental receipt of benefits or a range of child specific circumstances such as a disability or being looked after by a local authority.

Early Education and Childcare

The Council's Early Start Team offer advice, guidance, training and support to practitioners, parents and carers on the many issues surrounding childcare and early years across Cheshire East.

The Early Start Team consists of professionals who support and challenge the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage by ensuring settings offer inclusive high quality early years provision across the Borough supported by a confident, highly skilled workforce.



Cheshire East Family Information Service provides a free confidential and impartial information, advice and guidance service for families with children and young people aged 0-25.

It is a free one-stop shop for parents/carers, young people aged 0-19 and professionals providing detailed information on services available across Cheshire East.

Family Support

As a Local Authority Cheshire East Preventative Services have seven Family Support teams which use the Early Help Assessment to determine and formulate a wellbeing plan with families at level 3 on continuum of need described in the Cheshire East Timely Support for Children Policy. In addition, we can support cases managed by Social Workers for a period of up to 12 weeks and cases where the lead professional is another partner agency.

Working holistically across the extended family is fundamental to our approach and we strive to support stable, positive family networks in which all family members are able to thrive.

Our work supports families when they face complex needs and challenges, including domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health issues, and it ranges from intensive family support, specialist 1-1 work, conflict management and relationship support which impacts on children, parenting advice and wellbeing services. The majority of our work takes place in the families' own homes.

The Family Service Worker's main task will be to stabilise family function by initiating positive routines, improving parenting capacity, behaviour management, improving family communication and relationships, and, where appropriate, assisting in putting the family finances and budgeting on a more solid foundation.

Family Support

The Service will also embed wider agency support and intervention into the life of the family. They will help them plan and attend appointments on time and other agencies will input the agreed interventions and resources as part of their delivery of the wellbeing plan.

Families will exit the service when early help members are agreed that the family has made sufficient progress to be returned to support within their local community and universal services. This will be no longer than one year from the intervention. Some families may need to be monitored longer than this by one or more agencies.

Whilst the Family Service provide a range of interventions and services, they are not able to provide advice/guidance on Private Law Proceedings, attachment/therapeutic interventions, direct payment assessments, Looked After Children Support, S47 Safeguarding investigations or interventions for Court Ordered Family Support Work or Court Plans as there are alternative resources across a range of services available to meet these needs.

Parenting Programmes

Being a parent is one of life's greatest joys, but it is also one of its biggest challenges. There is hardly a parent on the face of the earth who, at times, is not overwhelmed by the task of caring for their children and needs advice to deal with the everyday challenges of family life.

Parenting programmes are a great opportunity to meet other parents and carers and share experiences and ideas in a supportive environment. You will develop a greater understanding of child development, build more positive relationships and learn skills to deal with challenging behaviour.

In Cheshire East we understand not all parents can get to attend a parenting group so the Family Service offers a graduated response from internet-based information through to a face-to-face course with a referral from a professional who knows your family, for example, a health visitor, teacher or social worker.

We offer a range of parenting programmes which can take place virtually in schools, children's centres and community centres across the local area Monday to Saturday. Courses are open to any caregiver responsible for the day to day care, protection and upbringing of a child or young person, including foster carers. parents, step parents, significant

Magic 123
Triple P Teen
Triple P Programmes

Webster Stratton
Incredible Years
Digital parenting

Youth Support Service

Targeted Youth Work: Across Cheshire East there is a cross section of targeted youth work which involves giving young people the opportunity to achieve positive outcomes, accreditation and to assess and meet individual needs. The work is delivered in a variety of building-based settings or through outreach and detached work. Sessions include: group work projects, open-access targeted provision, 1:1 support, accreditation projects, home visits, outdoor activities and residential.

Education Health Care Plans: Young people from Year 9 onwards with an Education Health Care Plan are supported to engage in learning and training post-16 through the completion of a Preparing for Adulthood (Pfa) transition plan. Workers attend EHCP reviews from Year 9 onwards, prepare the Pfa, support any transition, and continue support in post-16 education and transition.

NEET: Young people aged 16 & 17 years (up to 25 years with a special educational need or cared for/care leavers) are allocated a Young Person's Advisor for ongoing support. This includes: identifying goals and how to achieve them, group sessions/job search and help, focussed interviews, and information on local employment opportunities. We work with education to identify the risk of NEET in Year 11 and offer early support.

Youth Support Service

Participation: We have a Participation Team who work with children and young people aged 0-19 years (25 years SEND and Care Leavers). This ensures that children and young people are central to the planning, development and delivery of their assessments. They have an opportunity to be involved in all service design, delivery and evaluation. The team facilitate the Investing in Children and Young People's Partnership and report to the Children's Trust.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme: The YSS hold the Cheshire East Licence for the DofE Award Scheme. This includes support to Schools and Voluntary Units in their implementation of the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Outdoor Education: The YSS offers targeted and vulnerable young people aged 13-19 years (25 with SEND) the opportunity to gain new skills and take part in group work activities in outdoor education and gain accreditation in outdoor pursuits such as sailing, climbing and walking.

For more information visit: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/care-and-support-for-children/services-from-childrens-social-care/youth-offending-and-preventative-services/youth-support.aspx>

Locality Support Officers

Across the Borough we have three Locality Support Officers who are Practitioners currently seconded into this role to provide support, advice and guidance on Early Help cases where the Lead Professional is from a partner agency.

Support offered includes:

- Early Help – what is it and when is an assessment needed, including the role of the Lead Person.
- Having the conversation with parents and carers to start an EHA, to support positive engagement.
- How to Capture the Child's Voice and why this is important, including tools and resources.
- Using the Signs of Wellbeing framework with families.
- Gathering initial assessment information, including tools and resources to complete the mapping.
- How to write worry and wellbeing statements. Why we scale and how to write a scaling question.
- What happens next – initial and review meetings.
- Understanding processes to support Step Down cases from Children's Social Care.

More information on how to request this support can be found at:

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/care-and-support-for-children/are-you-concerned-about-a-child/cheshire-east-consultation-service-checs/early-help-brokerage.aspx>

Or by email: EHBlocalitysupport@cheshireeast.gov.uk

The Family Focus Programme

Family Focus is part of a national programme that is aiming to engage and support families who experience challenges through having complex lives. Some families have to navigate numerous agencies and professionals to receive help with what is going on with the adults and children within a household. The Family Focus programme takes a whole family approach and encourages one professional to take the lead for coordinating help for a family.

This does not mean that one person does all the work, but that the work for the family is managed in a way which is good for the family to make steady progress towards achieving goals. The programme brings together a range of services that can help families overcome challenges and work in a way that does not overwhelm them.

A family must have a child under 18 years old living within the household and meet at least two of the following criteria:

- Parents or children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.
- Children who have not been attending school regularly.
- Children who need help.
- Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion, or young people at risk of worklessness.
- Families affected by domestic violence and abuse.
- Parents or children with a range of health problems.

All families with an Early Help Assessment recorded on Liquid Logic will be tracked as part of this programme and the relevant privacy notice shared with the family.