

What is a Early Help Assessment?

The Early Help Assessment is an assessment of a child's circumstances following a referral to Highfields Family Support Team. The purpose of the assessment is to gather more information, in order to identify the best support for you and your family.

You and your family will be asked for your opinion on your situation and your needs, and what you feel would be best to help you.

We are aware that parents want to do the best for their family but sometimes extra help and support may be required.

These are the areas that we assess during the visits.



What will happen?

The Early Help Assessment will be completed by a Family Support Worker. The Family Support Worker will come out and visit you to complete the assessment;

- They will meet with you and your child.
- Meet with other family members as appropriate.
- Talk to people who are involved with your family such as health visitor or school.
- We will look at all the strengths and difficulties your family has.
- Your views will be gathered as part of the process.

Depending on the outcome of the Early Help Assessment the following may happen:

- Your family do not require any further support at this point in time.
- You may need support and we will refer you to other agencies.
- Further concerns have been raised and we may need to discuss these with Social Care

How long does the Assessment take?

The Early Help Assessment can take up to 45 days.

The times very much depend on the urgency of the assessment, meeting with families and liaising with professionals involved.

The Family Support Worker will then produce a written assessment; you will receive a copy of this. Your opinion of the assessment is important and if there is anything you disagree with then you should tell us.

If further support is required then a plan will be formed and this will be reviewed every 4-8 weeks. The plan may be reviewed during a Team Around the Family Meeting. You and other professionals involved with the family would be invited to this meeting.

You will receive a copy of the review plan and be able to give your opinion on this.

The plan may change as your family's needs change.

Protection of Children

Children's safety is our priority, in some more serious situations we have to make other decisions. Further advice will be given to you should this be the case.

What we will do

- We will listen carefully to your views.
- We will look at strengths and needs in your family.
- We will talk to you and your child.
- We will aim to help you resolve the difficulties you may be having.
- We will refer to other agencies for support.
- We will keep you involved in all decisions.
- We will offer you support and advice on other services.
- We will keep information confidential unless we have to share information to protect a child.

What you can do

- Be open and honest no matter how difficult things may be.
- Keep the appointment with the Family Support Worker or other professional.
- Listen to the advice and support.
- Work with other agencies if referrals are made.

We welcome any comments about the service given; we will be interested if you feel we can improve our services.



Information for Parents

Understanding the Assessment Process



Early Help Assessment