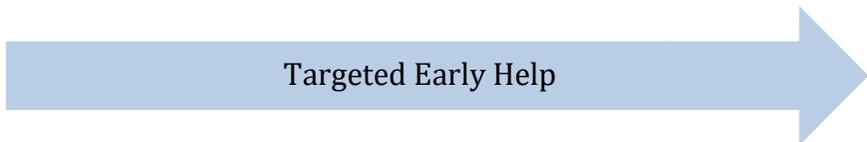
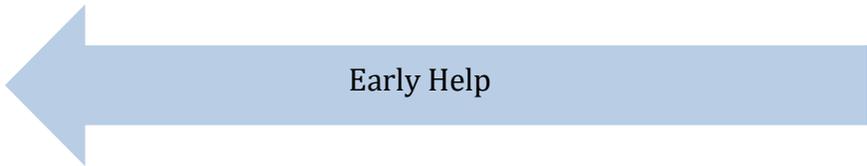


Early Help Support for Families in Shropshire

Information for Practitioners



We want all children and young people in Shropshire to be able to enjoy a happy, safe and healthy childhood and reach their full potential.

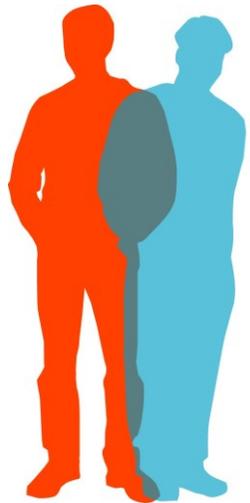
Most children's needs are met by their family or services that are available to all children and young people – such as health and education.

Sometimes, families face challenges and may need some additional help and support early on to stop these getting worse.

These may be challenges that come from a sudden upheaval, ongoing change or just from everyday family life. They could then impact on the whole family or on individual family members, and place stress on relationships within the family.

In Shropshire we give parents the support and guidance they need to be able to meet the needs of their children, through offering parents early solutions to challenges that arise.

These early solutions could be through services which are available to all parents, or it could be that services will be offered through more targeted support.



What help is available to families?

There are several different ways in which families can get help and support.

1. Information on many local and national services and organisations that can be found on the [Shropshire Family Information Service](#) website. This includes a range of topics that many families face such as bereavement, parenting support, divorce and separation, anger, anxiety and worry.
2. Parents could also talk to someone who already knows their family, such as someone at their child's nursery, a teacher, health visitor or a school nurse. Sometimes a conversation with someone they know can make the world of difference. They may be able to provide a bit more support or point parents in the direction of the right service.
3. They might suggest having a family meeting, where parents can invite those they trust and who offer them support, along with people from services who can help.
4. However, it may be that a family needs additional support and help to stop a situation from getting worse. In Shropshire we call this additional support Early Help.



How does Early Help work?

- Early help recognises the role that all family members have, and the wishes and feelings of everyone within the family are always considered.
- It is important to understand the strengths, difficulties, views and needs of everyone in the family to help them understand what you want to change. Once they know this they can then start to think about what is needed to help them make the change they want. This is done through a document called a whole family Webstar and action plan.
- Early help support could come from one service or a few different types of services, including a targeted service. This will depend on the information in the whole family Webstar.
- Early help is co-ordinated by one lead worker, who will be the family's main point of contact. They will help access the services a family need quickly and easily.
- The information provided by the family will only be shared with the people who need to know about it, and only with the family's agreement.

