

Who is a lead professional?

If a number of people are providing support to your family, it may be appropriate to agree one person to act as the main link between your family and the other agencies. This person should be someone you feel comfortable talking to about any issues you are facing or just to keep in touch with about progress of actions.

Want to know more?

For further information contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH):

t: **01908 253 169**

e: children@milton-keynes.gov.uk

w: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/children-s-social-care/milton-keynes-multi-agency-safeguarding-hub-mash>

Additional information can also be located on our Early Help Page

w: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/early-help>



Early Help for families in Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes Council
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk

MK
milton keynes council

Early Help

Early Help is a term used by agencies to describe an approach to providing support for children, young people and their families as soon as problems start to emerge.

Early Help is designed to support families build on their existing strengths and build capacity and resilience to identify their own solutions.

How do I access Early Help and how will it help my family?

Early Help can be accessed via your children's school, a health professional or local family centre.

They will work with you to complete an Early Help Assessment (EHA), which is used by agencies to identify your family's needs and strengths.

You might be invited to a Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting so that your needs can be shared with other relevant agencies and a plan of action will be agreed with you. You should always receive a copy of any notes taken at this meeting including any agreed actions.

You might also be supported with advice and guidance on a range of issues or signposted to other local specialist and community support services.

Confidentiality and information sharing

Once the assessment has been completed, it cannot proceed to the next stage or be shared with agencies until you have signed the page to agree to the information gathered being shared.

Confidentiality

As a rule the information which you and your child provide will only be shared with your family's consent. However there may be certain times when the people working with you need to share information.

For example:

- when they need to find out urgently if a child is at risk of harm
- to help a child who is at risk of harm
- when an adult is at risk of harm
- to help prevent or detect a serious crime

If you have older children, they may be able to discuss their own needs with a worker. A young person's wish to keep information confidential from parents may be respected by the worker where this is in the young person's best interests.