



# Early Help and Prevention

Somerset's approach

# The Early Help Board - Governance



# The Early Help Strategy (Draft)

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Families

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Communities

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Workforce

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Leaders

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SEND

# Our Principles – draft Early help Strategy 2021

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- **Early help is a way of working, not a service:** Any person working with a child, young person or family is able to deliver early help interventions.
- **Early Help is important at all times:** Even if a person is in crisis or requiring high levels of skilled intervention in one part of their life, early help can still be appropriate in other parts of their life, and both can happen at the same time.
- **Early help is delivered in a range of ways:** In a conversation, by listening, through training or demonstrating.
- **We will focus on the individual's needs, not the needs of the service.** We will work towards making services fit the need, not the other way around, and ensure all areas of Somerset have equal access to early help support
- **Community is key.** We will support the community and community-led organisations to identify the right support for the people they know, enabling individuals to help others and help themselves.
- **Early Help skills can be taught.** We will support the Early Help workforce to have the skills and confidence to deliver good quality early help.
- **Technology is a positive tool** - We will use technology to safely share information which means people can help more effectively
- **We will take a graduated response** – We will always try the most proportionate, simplest solution first

# Our definition of Early Help

- Early Help means ‘providing support as soon as the problem emerges, at any point in the child’s life from the foundation years through to the teenage years’ (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018).
- **“Early Help is stopping a problem before it happens, like putting a stop sign in the middle of the road”** Member of Youth Parliament
- Early Help is available for everyone – not just in universal services like schools and GPs, but also informally in communities and families.
- People who are working in specialist and reactive services can also provide informal early help. Access to Early Help should therefore be led by need and by the person seeking it, not by tiers or thresholds.



# Early Help Services

- Short presentation from Safe Families on their service in Somerset
- Short presentation from Public Health Nursing
- Opportunity for questions
  - The Committee may wish to consider how this provision aligns with the Early Help Principles
  - Having heard the providers talk about their early help offer, do you feel the principles reflect what good early help looks like?