



Early Help Offer

The school's Early Help Offer respects every family's right to access information to help manage their own lives successfully, whilst guiding them to seek support from appropriate sources. Help can then be agreed as soon as concerns start to emerge.

The 'Offer' is for all children, as issues may arise at any point in a child or young person's life. It includes both universal and targeted/specialist services, to reduce or prevent concerns from growing or becoming entrenched. We follow the guidance in 'Cambridgeshire LSCB Threshold Document' regarding the thresholds for universal, targeted and specialist provision. This document can be downloaded from the Local Safeguarding Cambridgeshire Board website or the school's website.

Most families would recognise that they have a support network around their family, whether this is grandparents, friends and the local GP or community groups. Through this network, families receive enough support, **advice** and sometimes **help** which enables them to overcome usual day to day difficulties that many people experience. Through these universal or preventative (community based) services, most families thrive. Some families, however, will experience more complex difficulties in their lives. Depending on the type and complexity of their needs, they may need to **get more help** from targeted services provided by public sector organisations. These organisations need to step in and work alongside the support that is already in place. A small minority of families will need help to cope with risks presented to the safety of some or all members of their family. When this happens, specialist services need to step in to work alongside the support that is already in place.

The school will always involve the family in all Early Help strategies and most will be put in place with their permission. The school will aim to work with families in a supportive, non-judgemental way so that trust is built up and the best possible outcomes achieved. There are occasions, however, when the school's allocated Designated Safeguarding Leads may believe that a child may be at immediate risk of significant harm and that by informing the parents/carers of the concern may put the child at further risk. In these cases, the school will implement Section 47 procedures. This will involve an immediate referral to Social Care without parent/carer knowledge.



Cambridgeshire has established seven **Early Help Hubs** across the county. These are made up of integrated teams working within a local network of universal, voluntary, community and statutory partners and agencies. Each Hub works collectively and collaboratively to identify, co-ordinate and respond to a child or family's need at the earliest possible stage.

Early Help Hubs:

- Provide information, advice and guidance to vulnerable children, young people and families with difficulties they are experiencing at an early stage.
- Co-ordinate requests for support received and ensures families are supported by the right agency at the right time.
- Provide parenting and targeted family support services to families and children to prevent escalation of problems.
- Provide advice and support to school, community based practitioners and lead professionals working with children and families.
- Develop support plans for children and families stepping down from social care services.
- Provide regular opportunities for agency professionals to discuss and plan help and support being provided to local children and families.
- Support universal services (schools, health services, children's centres etc) to enhance the positive early work delivered in local settings and to link up services and teams to provide a joined up offer.
- Have children and families at the heart of key decisions related to them from planning a multi-agency response to help families with complex issues to ensuring their voices are heard in developing local provision of services.