

# What is the Early Help Assessment?

The Early Help Assessment (EHA) is a better way of working with children, young people and families. It involves listening to you and your child

to find out what you and your child needs and what is working well in your family's life.

It also helps to look at your family in a holistic way to ensure there are supports in place for family members.

An action plan is agreed with you and your family at a Team around the Family meeting which professionals might also attend to ensure you get the right support and help.

The EHA is voluntary—you and your family can choose to get involved.

“Early Help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years”

*((Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013))*

To enquire about an EHA please contact a professional working with you or your family or alternatively contact:

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## Early Help Assessment (EHA) in Northumberland

*Information Leaflet for Parents and Carers*



“When your child needs extra support, we want to find the best way forward as soon as possible”.

This leaflet explains a better way of everyone working together which puts your family at the heart of the decisions made about your child or children.

**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council

## How will the EHA help my family?

The EHA is there to help to identify any needs or concerns you may have or a professional may have.

It can lead to a quick solution or help identify support quickly.

The EHA will ensure that everyone involved with you and your family, for example teachers, health visitors, all work together to support you and your family.

The EHA is about identifying any needs early and ensure correct supports are in place.

## When is the EHA used?

Early Help is to provide support as soon as an issue emerges at any point in a child's life.



## How does the EHA Work?

If you and your child agree, a worker will go through the assessment form with you to help assess what support you may need.

Older children may feel able to discuss their situation on their own with the 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 and welfare.

### Confidentiality

As a rule information which you and your child provide will be shared with the consent of your family.

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 high risk of harm

***“Our lives have been helped by the CAF and its processes . (previous version of EHA)” [Quote from a Northumberland parent]***

## What happens next?

Once the assessment is completed, then a Team around the Family meeting will be held to look at who can help you and your child / children.

An action plan will be put together and you will receive a copy of this as well as a copy of the EHA.

### Who is the Lead Professional?

If a number of people are providing support to your child / children, one of these people will be appointed as a 'Lead Professional'.

This person will keep you informed and listen to your views and support you.

You will have a say in who should be the Lead Professional.

They will then co-ordinate the services

