

Examples of referrals

Significant risk of harm: Immediate referral through 'One Call'

- **Physical injury to an immobile baby** - Nursery staff notice a bruise on babies back when changing nappy.
- **Disclosure of physical abuse** - Child discloses that they have been hit in the face by their mother.
- **Disclosure of sexual abuse** - Child discloses that they have been sexually assaulted by their older brother.
- **Domestic violence with a child in the house** - Child witnesses an argument which turns physical leaving mum with an injury.
- **Parents with substance misuse** - Neighbour reports that adults next door are taking drugs regularly and are selling them from their address. They have seen a number of different adults coming to the house late at night. There is an 8 year old and 5 year old living at the address.
- **Unsafe adult staying at the property** - Mum has a new partner who is a registered sex offender.

At risk of harm: Referral through 'One Call'

- **Build up of concerns about neglect** - School are concerned that over time their worries are growing about a child. They sometimes have no lunch, their clothes look dirty and they are often tired. Another parent has reported to school that the home conditions are a concern. The school has tried to initiate an Early Help Assessment but parents will not engage or give consent.
- **Build up of concerns about emotional abuse** - School are becoming increasingly concerned after hearing a parent being negative about their child. They show little emotional warmth towards the child and tell them that they are 'stupid' and 'worthless'. The child's behaviour has changed; they are becoming more withdrawn and socially isolated. School have already put support in place through an Early Help Assessment but in TAF meetings mum is still speaking and acting negatively towards the child and there are no signs that the relationship between the mother and child is improving.

Early Help

- Early Help is about offering help to children and families before any problems are apparent and in providing help when low level problems emerge. It refers to both help in the early years of a child or young person's life (including prenatal interventions) and early in the emergence of a problem at any stage in their lives. This support could be given through universal services, through extra services individual agencies already have or through a multi agency response.
- The Early Help Assessment is a holistic assessment and plan that can be used to support children and families who require early help, particularly those needing multi agency support where a coordinated response is required.

Call your Early Help Coordinators for advice if needed

Locality Early Help Family Work Teams

Northumberland County Council and its commissioned partners, Barnardos and Action for Children, deliver Early Help Family Work in each of the four localities with families where there are children 0-19 and they have at least three of the issues identified below but don't meet the threshold for social work intervention.

3 or more of the following must be present in the family plus a need for support through intensive family support

- **Crime and antisocial behaviour** - Where a family member has had police involvement relating to crime and antisocial behaviour within the last 12 months, this could be a child or an adult or where the child has been reported missing
- **Attendance concerns** - A child has more than 10% unauthorised absence over three terms, has been excluded from school on a fixed term basis or permanent basis
- **Child in need of help** - A child who has been referred to the HUB, has an EHA, has Special Educational Needs or an EHCP, are a young carer, have been reported missing, are at risk of CSE or are not attending their early years nursery entitlement
- **Financial difficulties** - Families who are at risk of financial exclusion, who have debt, parents who are out of work and claiming benefits or who need support to return to work, young people up to the age of 18 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- **Domestic Violence** - Family members who have been at risk or who have experienced domestic violence in the last 12 months or family members who have been the perpetrator of domestic violence within the last 12 months
- **Health** - A child or parent within the family with physical or mental health concerns, a child or parent within the family home with a drug or alcohol problem

Further information, HUB referral forms and EHA paperwork can all be found;

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Family/Support.aspx>