## 7 MINUTE BRIEFING

## Early Help

To support partnership working, agencies providing Early Help in Knowsley will have access to a shared IT system called the Early Help Module. This will allow partners to share information appropriately, initiate and undertake EHA's, record support given and demonstrate outcomes to prove the effectiveness of intervention as well as to encourage families to maintain change and progress.

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Where needs are of a

relatively low level, individual

and universal services may

be able to respond quickly

but were there are other

emerging needs affecting the

children and family an Early Help Assessment (EHA) should be undertaken.

In Working Together 2015 Early Help means; "providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through the teenage years. Early Help can also prevent other problems arising, for example, if it provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care."

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Knowsley Council has worked with partners to establish the Early Help Team. This team's role is to assist in the correct identification of support for families when concerns are raised, as well as supporting colleagues in schools, health and other agencies to undertake Early Help Assessments and implement Team Around the Family (TAF) processes.

> The EHA was developed with children, parents and professional and is a whole family, multi-agency exercise to be undertaken by a Lead Professional (GP, family support worker, teacher, health visitor etc:) who can support the family, act as an advocate on their behalf and co-ordinate the delivery of support services. The EHA should take full account of the child's 'voice'.

Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires the Local Authority and its partners (including those providing services to adults) to promote co-operation to improve the wellbeing of children it its area. This includes the provision of Early Help services as well as protection from harm and neglect.

Knowsley SCB's Threshold Document describes the issues and circumstances in which children may need support ranging from universal services provision to social care intervention. Early Help is the support provided by any agency acting singly or in collaboration with any number of others to prevent issues escalating to the point where social care or other specialist, often crisis driven, intervention is required.

For more information regarding 7 minute briefings, please email <u>sarah.herron@knowsley.gov.uk</u> Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Nutgrove Villa, Westmorland Road, Huyton L36 6GA Tel: 0151 443 3859 www.knowsleyscb.org.uk