



Early Help and CAF Briefing in a minute

December 2015

Why do we need to provide early help?

- Providing support as soon as a problem emerges can strengthen family skills, resilience and protective factors to reduce the risk of problems escalating or recurring
- Improve outcomes and life chances for children, young people and their families
- Reduce the risk of problems transmitting within families from one generation to the next
- Reduce the risk of significant harm to a child
- Reduce the need for costly specialist services

Early Help for children, young people and families with additional needs

The majority of Early Help in Newcastle is delivered by universal services coming together as part of a Team Around the Family using the Common Assessment Framework. The CAF is an assessment tool to enable practitioners and families to form a shared understanding about a child and their family's needs and how best to meet them. The benefits of doing a CAF are such that it:

- Provides children, young people and families with a single assessment, a single plan and a single point of contact. There is no overlap between services and families will only have to 'tell their story' once
- Creates a record for the child and family and of the actions being undertaken to support them. This avoids duplication, repetition and confusion.
- Ensures that needs are considered holistically from a broad range of perspectives rather than from the focus of any one agency or need
- Facilitates a more complete picture of the child/young person and their family through shared information which makes it easier for practitioners to agree which services are required, co-ordinate delivery with other services and monitor progress
- Ensure that progress is continually monitored and plans adjusted to meet changing needs through regular reviews

The CAF and Early Help Advisory Teams offer the following support:

Training on CAF and practitioner support groups; management of the eCAF system that contains all CAFs logged across the city; direct support to practitioners to develop the most appropriate response to families identified as having additional needs.

You can contact us: via email earlyhelp@newcastle.gov.uk or telephone: 0191 2115805

http://newcastlescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_caf.html