



ALL AGE EARLY HELP STRATEGY 2017-2020



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FOREWORD

The All Age Early Help Strategy (2017–2020) for Barnsley identifies a series of priorities where we feel collectively, that we can make a difference to achieve the best outcomes for individuals, families and communities within the borough.

It is important that in such times where resources are reducing and demand for specialist services is increasing, that we work together and pool our resources to ensure people in our communities get the right support, at the right time, in the right place to tackle problems early. Early help minimises the risk of problems becoming more severe and entrenched, and ensures that people are supported to achieve their full potential and lead fulfilling and rewarding lives.

The Barnsley Strong Communities Partnership reports to the Health and Wellbeing Partnership, bringing together a range of public, private, voluntary, community and social enterprise partners. This strategy will maximise capacity and builds the resilience of individuals, families and communities. It will promote collective ownership and accountability for the delivery of our visions and priorities. Working across all sectors, we acknowledge that strong and resilient communities form the solid foundation on which to deliver this strategy.

The strategy outlines our strategic intentions and approach to ensure early help is understood, accessible and firmly embedded within the working practices of all agencies, promoting lifetime and whole-family planning to deliver effective early help in Barnsley.

We are therefore pleased to announce this strategy, and look forward to working together to ensure that local people and communities can reach their full potential and that together, we can achieve a brighter future, a better Barnsley.



Councillor Lamb, Barnsley Council,
Chair of Stronger Communities Partnership



Councillor Platts, Barnsley Council,
Chair of Stronger Communities Partnership

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The All Age Early Help Strategy is one of a number of strategies and plans which contribute towards the Health and Wellbeing Partnership vision, enabling the people of Barnsley to:

- BE HEALTHY
- STAY SAFE
- ENJOY AND ACHIEVE
- BE AN ACTIVE CITIZEN
- EARN A GOOD LIVING

It recognises that well-timed support and intervention in one aspect of a person's or family's life can lead to resilience, confidence and achievement in other aspects of life. There is also an emphasis on the importance of working together effectively with other local partner organisations in the public and voluntary sector, and with local communities, to promote shared ownership of the outcomes we want to achieve.

What is early help?

Early help is a simple concept; it is about changing our culture from an often late reaction and re-focussing our approach along with our resources on the root causes of problems. By doing so, outcomes for children, young people, families and vulnerable adults improve and costly statutory interventions are avoided.

Early help is about giving people the help they need as early as possible, and supporting individuals, families and communities to do more for themselves. Central to our early help approach is the early identification of children, young people, families and vulnerable adults who would benefit from early Help and a co-ordinated early assessment and response to help people improve their outcomes.

Early help may occur at any point in an individual's life, and can involve interventions early on in life as well as interventions early in the development of a problem.

Whose responsibility is early help?

Early help is everyone's responsibility. Individually and collectively we all have a responsibility for developing self-resilience, ensuring people are supported to build on their strengths, recognise when help is needed early and to develop tools to tackle root causes of problems to maintain their independence and overall wellbeing.

Resilient and connected communities are crucial to not only helping each other and themselves to recognise when early help might be needed, but also to ensure there is strength and capacity to help vulnerable individuals and families to help themselves wherever possible.

An effective early help approach requires cross-sector integrated working to ensure opportunities to support vulnerable individuals, families and communities are maximised and people get the early help they need. All sectors including the public, private, voluntary and community have an important role to play in supporting vulnerable people in our communities to recognise early when help is needed and to access the right support, at the right time in the right place.

Working together in a smarter and more joined up way, means that we can achieve greater efficiencies, reduce demand on high-cost services and help vulnerable individuals and families to a position where they are safe, secure and confident and can be effectively supported by universal services and their broader communities to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Working together locally

The Early Help Strategy provides the high level shared vision, outcomes and priorities that partners across the Health and Wellbeing Partnership will collectively work towards over the period of 2017 to 2020. Due to the nature of early help, these are supported by the following connected strategies, plans and commissioning intentions:





LINKS BETWEEN STP AND ALL AGE EARLY HELP STRATEGY

The strategic intentions and direction of these strategies, plans and associated equality scheme requirements align to ensure that, collectively, we work together to deliver effective approaches to early help. This will achieve the best possible outcomes for and in partnership with local people and our communities and keep people safe from harm.

Barnsley Place-based Plan Priorities

EarlyHelp Strategy shared Priorities

IMPROVING HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY

- Improving mental health and wellbeing
- Improving support for older people

- The right early help, in the right place at the right time

- Changing the way we work together (new models of care)

- Ensuring a whole system approach to early help with strong partnership working and system leadership

- Building stronger communities and being in control of my wellbeing

- Empowering local people and communities to build capacity and resilience to enable them to do more for themselves

OUR PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENT

Our vision for early help in Barnsley is...

Individuals and families are safe, healthy and resilient, having the confidence and skills to thrive and achieve their full potential so that collectively, our communities achieve the best possible outcomes for themselves, their families and each other.

In order to realise our vision, we have developed the following guiding principles:

Addressing root causes and building resilience

People are supported to build on their strengths, to understand underlying factors and develop tools to tackle the cause of problems, building on the resourcefulness of their families and broader communities.

Holistic service pathways

We will work together to deliver an early help offer which is appropriate and tailored to individual and family needs, rather than organisational boundaries.

Early help is everyone's responsibility

As part of our wider community engagement strategy and "Barnsley Deal". This strategy recognises individual self-awareness, responsibility and accountability. We will work together to ensure individuals and families receive the right support, at the right time in the right place to build resilience and achieve their maximum potential.

Wraparound transitional support

Individuals and families are supported to ensure that needs are met as early as possible with appropriate step-up and step-down.

There is 'no wrong door'

We will make every count, ensuring that pathways are accessible and clear so that people get the right, timely support regardless of the first point of contact.

Whole lifetime planning

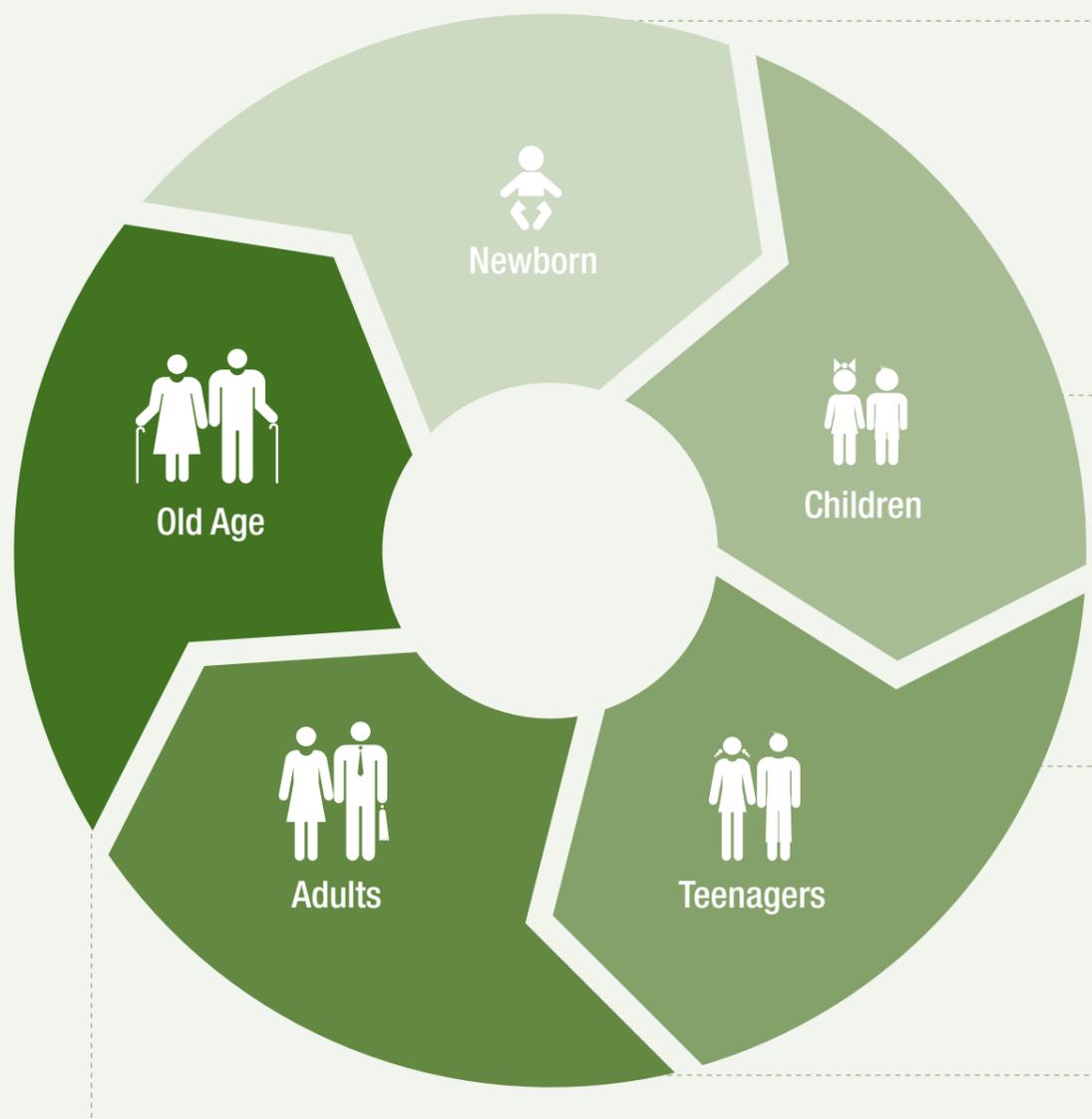
Working together, people are supported across the life course, ensuring that early help needs are identified and support is put in place ensuring smooth transitions between all stages of life.

SETTING OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2017–2020

Understanding our local needs

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment uses all available data and information to assess the current and future health and wellbeing needs of our local residents and communities. The Older and Vulnerable Persons' Needs Assessment, the Housing Strategy and Area Profiles are other key pieces of research which underpin our understanding and inform the setting of priorities. Such information is used to inform how resources are allocated across the borough in accordance with identified needs, ensuring the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes are achieved whilst also reducing health inequalities.

The following diagram provides an overview of the key findings from the most recent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and other intelligence sources, and includes extracts from relevant equalities impact assessments. The diagram reflects the common risk factors associated with the need for early help. It is recognised that as part of the delivery and performance frameworks associated to the strategy there will be ongoing work undertaken in relation to life stages, and where appropriate, protected characteristics.



Poverty and Deprivation: Where you live in Barnsley has a significant impact on your likelihood of experiencing child poverty, fuel poverty, pensioner poverty and health issues.



KS2 School Attainment: Barnsley children are behind the expected levels at both Early Years and Key Stage 2.

Primary Attendance: Broadly in line with national rates.

Obesity: 22.1% of 4–5 year-olds, and 33.5% of 10–11 year-olds are overweight or obese.



Mental Health: Barnsley has lower rates of people entering and completing the IAPT service.

KS4 Results: Higher than the expected level in Barnsley.

Secondary Attendance: Broadly in line with national rates.

Youth Offending: Rates reducing in Barnsley despite the England average increasing.



Poverty and Deprivation: 11.3% Fuel Poverty Rate.

Employment: 6.3% Unemployment Rate.

Skills: 27% of adults lack basic digital skills, 11% have no formal qualifications.

Offending: 8.8% decrease in adult re-offending rate.

Crime: 6% rise in overall Crime Rate. Violence against a person +39.4%; sexual violence +20.8%; criminal damage +9.0%; robbery -9.4%; theft -5.1%.

Obesity: 70% of adults are overweight or obese.



Poverty and Deprivation: 1 in 5 pensioners claim Pension Credit.

People with long-term conditions: Accounts for about 50% of all GP appointments, 64% of all outpatient appointments and over 70% of all inpatient bed days (nationally).

OUR APPROACH

All partners are committed to improving the lives of individuals, families and communities in the borough. This requires a multifaceted approach to early help, identifying people at risk and providing wraparound services which promote the principles of prevention, early help, early intervention, and short term targeted support, including step-up and step-down between tiers of need.

By working together and sharing information, we can ensure the best possible outcomes for individuals, families and communities underpinned by the support they need to improve general health and wellbeing:

Be healthy

Enjoy good physical and mental health and live a healthy lifestyle throughout the life course

Earn a good living

Achieve sustainable employment to be successful and reach full potential in life

Be an active citizen

Take responsibility and play an active role in the local community

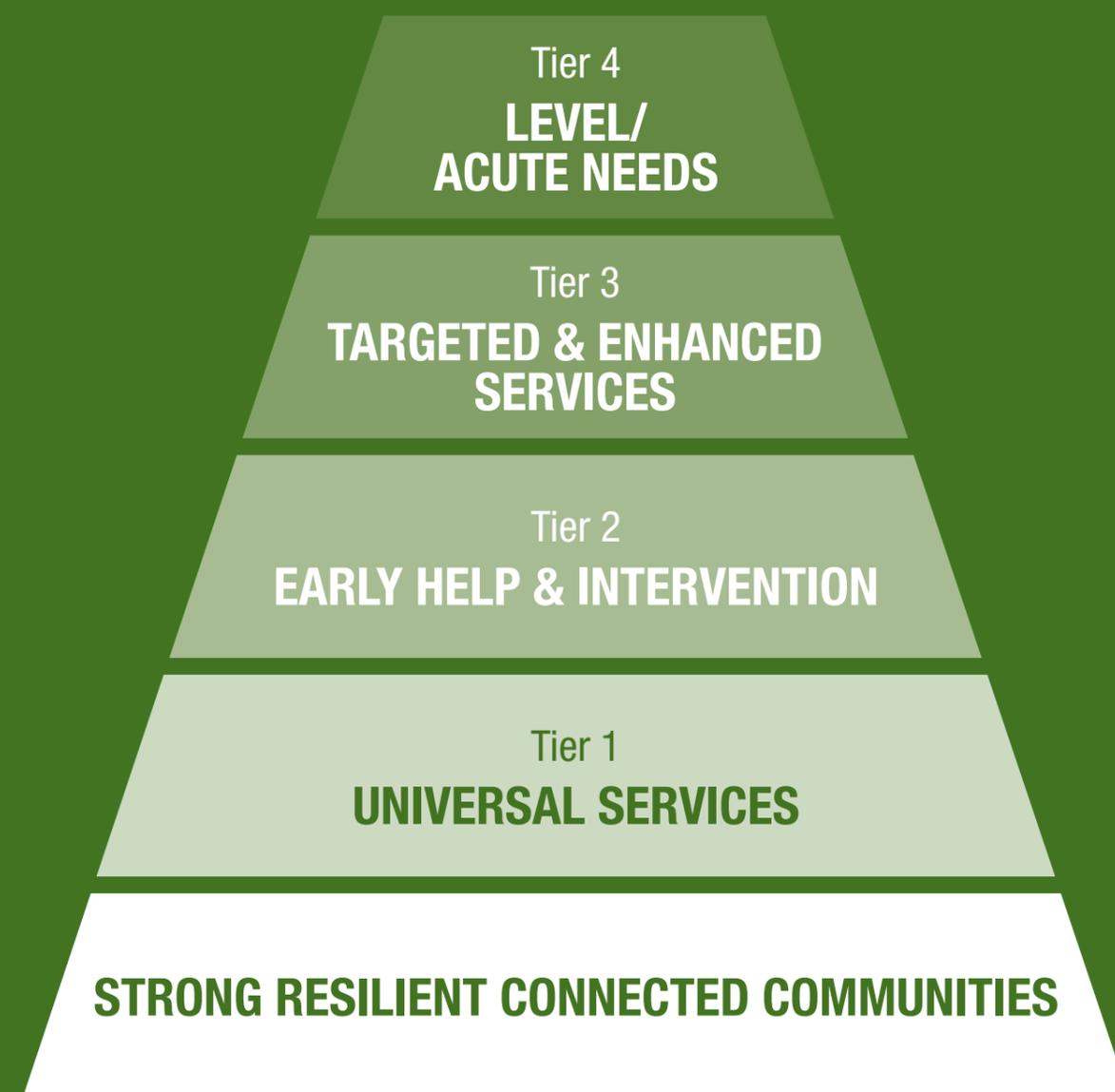
Enjoy and achieve

Get the most out of life and achieve full potential

Stay safe

Be protected from threat, harm and risk

At the heart of this multi-agency approach to delivering early help is integrated working across the whole system. A co-ordinated workforce will provide a more holistic, wraparound package of support to those who need it, at an early stage when interventions are most important. This is primarily focused on tier two vulnerable people, although it is important to emphasise that early help spans across the full spectrum of need.



OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

The strategy will build on the successful work of the Stronger Communities Partnership and our communities in delivering effective early help across Barnsley. Early help is already firmly embedded in our collective approaches, and much success has already been achieved including through the work of our Family Centres, our Think Family Programmes and the invaluable work of our communities.

The following case studies help to illustrate some of the real benefits of effective early help to individuals, families and communities. We will continue to be ambitious,

innovative and work together to build on our successes so that better outcomes can be achieved for and in partnership with individuals, families and communities.



SARAH DEVELOPED THE SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE TO LIVE HER LIFE INDEPENDENTLY, DEVELOP BETTER FINANCIAL STABILITY AND REDUCED HER STRESS AND ANXIETY LEVELS

Sarah's Story

Sarah recognised her needs early and self-referred to access early help support. Sarah was on out of work benefits, had mental health needs and required support with finding work.

The Think Family Employment Advisor worked with Sarah to find a local volunteering opportunity. Sarah had previously suffered with anxiety and low confidence, but with support was able to take up a work experience placement at a local pharmacy. Sarah developed new skills and grew in confidence. She secured paid employment a few weeks later.

Sarah settled into her job and continued to access support to build her confidence and self-esteem. Since gaining employment, Sarah feels less stressed and anxious and has developed the skills and confidence to take up further training opportunities. Sarah no longer needs ongoing medical support for anxiety and is really proud of her achievements.

Sarah developed the skills and confidence to live her life independently, develop better financial stability and reduced her stress and anxiety levels. She is now able to better support her family and is looking forward to her future having achieved her long-term goal of gaining employment.

SHE WAS FULLY SUPPORTED, REASSURED AND MOTIVATED. REGAINING THE CONFIDENCE TO ACHIEVE PREVIOUS LEVELS OF INDEPENDENCE WITHIN 4 WEEKS



Hilda's story

Hilda is a highly independent 81-year-old lady who sustained a fall, resulting in a leg fracture requiring surgery.

After being discharged from hospital to Pathway 3 Re-ablement, she was fully supported, reassured and motivated, regaining the confidence to achieve previous levels of independence within 4 weeks.

Hilda is now able to mobilise indoors (for example up and down the stairs) and outdoors independently with no need for supervision. This has really enhanced her quality of life.

Hilda also has a Careline giving her reassurance knowing that help is at hand when needed.

AS A RESULT OF THIS EARLY HELP, THE FAMILY DEVELOPED THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO GROW THEIR CONFIDENCE TO MOVE FORWARD THEIR LIVES INDEPENDENTLY



Thompson family's story

The Thompson family, two parents under 25 with a baby born with a number of health complications, were referred for early help with a number of support needs including benefits advice, budgeting, bereavement and building bonding and attachment.

The family worked with a Family Support Worker for four months to holistically address their individual needs as adults, developing the families parenting skills as well as ensuring that the individual needs of the child were met.

The Family Support Worker supported the family through a range of suitable approaches to meet their needs; expanding their skills in areas such as child development, money management and parenting, as well as supporting Mum to access mental health support.

As a result of this early help, the family developed the necessary skills to grow their confidence to move forward with their lives independently. The family went on to access local groups and were able to benefit from peer support from other parents taking care of a child in special care. They have built strong connections in their community, helping to reduce social isolation, maintain their independence and improve their quality of life.

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2017–2020

The Stronger Communities Partnership has agreed a number of priorities to deliver the vision for 2020. The following statements recognise the continued focus on building our workforce, community capacity and self-resilience.

Shared priority

The right early help, in the right place at the right time.

Outcome

Individual's families and communities are self-aware, able to identify when they need support, and engage appropriate services to maintain their independence and overall wellbeing.

Our focus**We will:**

- Ensure whole system early help pathways are developed which are clearly understood and embedded in practice.
- Ensure that early help thresholds are clearly defined and applied consistently.
- Ensure that evidence-based practice is coupled with insight and innovation to deliver the best possible approach to early help.
- Work with all agencies to put in place a workforce development plan to provide a whole system workforce response to our early help offer.
- Embed an outcome-focussed approach, ensuring that we can demonstrate the impact and difference made to, and in partnership with, our communities through the delivery of a whole system early help offer.

What difference will it make?

- People in Barnsley will know what advice and support is available to them and their families, to help them respond to problems or needs arising due to changing circumstances.
- They will know where and who to go to for support, and what to expect.
- People will be able to deal with issues or problems before they become more severe or complicated; and be independent and resilient enough to support themselves in the longer term, appropriate to their particular needs.

Shared priority

Ensuring a whole system approach to early help with strong partnership working and system leadership.

Outcome

Mature and adaptive partnerships which have shared ownership and accountability for the delivery of an effective early help offer.

Our focus

We will:

- Co-produce with local communities and embed a shared understanding and commitment of our all age early help offer.
- Ensure that all learning across the early help spectrum is shared to celebrate successes, but also learn from areas of improvement.
- Ensure that Early Help is not seen as something at the periphery of service design and delivery, but is embedded as mainstream.
- Align our commissioning approaches to ensure we have a shared focus on outcomes to support the delivery of the Early Help vision and priorities for Barnsley.

What difference will it make?

- Service delivery agencies will work together to minimise duplication, share knowledge about services available, and ensure that vulnerable people don't fall through gaps in processes.
- People in Barnsley will be able to access a range of advice and support services through one point of contact.

Shared priority

Empowering local people and communities to build capacity and resilience, to enable people and communities to do more for themselves.

Outcome

Strong, connected communities supporting themselves and each other to lead happy and fulfilling lives, thereby reducing the demand on statutory services.

Our focus

We will:

- Ensure that the premise of early help is underpinned by an asset-based approach to community development and resilience.
- Enable individuals, families and communities to self-help, and access services independently through maximising the use of technology, ensuring everyone is well informed about the service and support available.
- Promote independence by encouraging and enabling individuals to maintain a good quality of life accessing provision in their communities (helping them to help themselves).
- Recognise the need for strong connectivity with universal services to ensure people who need help are identified early, and effective step-up and step-down practices are in place.
- Ensure that the voice of the individual is at the centre of the early help offer, and individuals, families and communities are empowered to take control of their lives.

What difference will it make?

- People will have the knowledge and confidence to get involved or take a lead on community-based activities and projects, tailored to the skills and needs of their local areas.
- People will feel enabled to be independent but aware of how to seek support services when needed.

MONITORING THE DELIVERY OF OUR PLAN

Delivering our priorities

The Stronger Communities Partnership has overall responsibility for the co-ordination and of the strategy. Early help is everyone's business and therefore there are many organisations, partnerships and community groups, which together, will support the delivery of the strategy. The Stronger Communities Partnership whilst working alongside the Safeguarding Boards, the Safer Communities Partnership and the Children's Trust will ensure the strategic priorities are translated into operational delivery resulting in a co-ordinated and connected approach to early help in Barnsley.

Integrated partnership action plans will be developed and all actions will have lead officers and be time bound to ensure impact can be monitored and measured. The plans could be developed to reflect geographical boundaries I.E. area councils/borough or at a practice level to ensure local needs are met. Performance against key outcomes will be assessed in order to measure our success in delivering the strategy. Qualitative measures including feedback from individuals, families and communities will provide valuable insight and will be monitored alongside the delivery plan and performance measures to ensure that together, we achieve the best possible outcomes for and in partnership with our communities and the residents of Barnsley. It is important that in delivering our priorities we ensure appropriate connections are made to the actions of other strategies.

Resources

Public services are going through an unprecedented time of austerity measures where resources are and will continue to shrink. Our focus is therefore on targeting our resources appropriately in accordance with identified needs, thereby helping us to achieve the best outcomes for and in partnership with local people and communities.

Early help is an approach, not necessarily a service. Now more than ever there's a need to pool our resources across sectors acknowledging that strong and resilient communities will form the solid foundations to the successful delivery of this strategy.

Review

The Early Help Strategy covers the period 2017–2020 and will be reviewed annually to ensure the plan remains agile and focused on the emerging needs of local people and communities. The reviews will also enable an assessment to be made on progress to the previous year and provide means to harness commitment to deliver the future year's aspirations. This will also include equality analysis.

We will also continuously review our delivery plans to ensure there is a clear golden thread from the strategic priorities, outcomes and focus priority areas.

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