

New Early Help Assessment Briefing Session

December 2024

Family
HUBS
and Start for Life



Overview

- It has been several years since the current Early Help Assessment (EHA) and practitioner toolkit was embedded in Barnsley
- Acknowledge changes have been needed to reflect the current changes in in practice (Supporting Families Framework and Working Together to Safeguard Children)
- Also, from the feedback we have received from you as professionals during the EHA stakeholder consultation period last year
- The new EHA will also be aligning to Barnsley's new practice model, signs of wellbeing which has been rolled out across Barnsley this year alongside the signs of safety framework
- Focusing on providing early help at the earliest opportunity is key to supporting families to reach their full potential

Our Aim:

- Providing clearer guidance and expectations on the **when** and **how** to complete the Early Help Assessment and undertaking the role of lead professional for both professionals and family
- **Streamlining the paperwork** including the Family Network Action Plan **focusing on the whole family approach**
- Provide a **comprehensive professional toolkit** to aid completion of the Early Help Assessment which includes gaining the voice of children and young people
- Provide a **training package of support** for professionals

Signs of Wellbeing Model

- Signs of Safety® is a **strengths-based approach** that brings **the child into the centre of decision making** and **helps build safety** through **strengthening meaningful relationships and networks**.
- Over the years, Signs of Safety has evolved to being used in all areas of children's services with some adaptations;
- Bringing into the model **Signs of Wellbeing** which is used when there are concerns about a child's welfare, but they don't meet the threshold for child protection.
- As a local authority, Barnsley have committed to using Signs of Safety and Signs of Wellbeing as our model of practice and have invested in embedding this approach across Children's Services.
- Our new Early Help Assessment is based on **Signs of Wellbeing**, which will ensure children in Barnsley who need help, will be supported seamlessly through the continuum of need/I thrive model
- Further guidance can be found in our [Barnsley Thresholds for Intervention of Need document](#)



Signs of Wellbeing Model

The Early Help Assessment will use the Signs of Wellbeing approach **to focus on 3 key areas** within the assessment :

- What are we worried about?
- What's working well?
- What needs to happen?

Using the information gathered we agree and develop our;

- **“Worry Statements”** (What are we worried will happen to the child or young person if nothing changes?)
- **“Wellbeing Goals”** (What do we need to see to know the child is safe and well enough for us to not be worried anymore?)
- We then use a **scale** of 0-10 to identify the level of worry.

On a scale of 0-10 where 10 is that there is a family network in place and evidence that the worries are been managed and practitioners do not need to remain involved and 0 means we are very worried, and we need some additional professional support to deal with this where do people currently rate the situation?

Early Help Assessment

- Let's look at the [form](#)
- From today we are phasing out the old early help assessment .Old versions of the Early Help Assessment will no longer be accepted from **Monday 6th January 2025** “*New Year- New Form*”
- If you have a current open Early Help Assessment, we ask that lead practitioners review the current needs of the family to see if the EHA is still relevant and **reflects the current needs of the family**
- Across Barnsley we have **415 EHA** currently open for **more than 2 years**
- Start to use the Family Network Action Plan template (replaces the TAF form) at your next meeting
- Early Help Assessment and associated forms are now available for you to use and download from the [early help practitioner toolkit](#)

Early Help Assessment

- Appreciate you may need further support therefore alongside the EHA there is very detailed Early Help Assessment Guidance which takes you through step by step how to complete the Early Help Assessment
- Guidance will also be available for the role of the lead practitioner and leading a Family network Action Plan which will be available over the next few weeks
- Frequently Asked Questions will also be available on the toolkit, and these will be on from Monday 16th December
- Early Help Practitioner toolkit is available for useful resources and information
- If any organisation wishes to know how many open Early Help Assessments, they have currently to review email- earlyhelpdevelopmentofficer@barnsley.gov.uk

Early Help Assessment Forms and Processes

- The process remains the same for opening and closing an Early Help Assessment
- Alongside informing us regarding a change of lead practitioner or additional person information
- We still request you send in once completed your EHA and send in your Family Network Actions Plans after each meeting
- The associated forms will look slightly different, as we are asking for some additional information in relation to Supporting Families Information so that we can measure family need and outcomes on the great work that is been achieved with families

Training and Support to Practitioners

- Training will be provided from mid-January 2025 and will be delivered in two workshop sessions face to face.
- Each workshop session will be half a day, or you can attend a full day training which will cover both workshops (you will need to book a place on both workshops)
- At least four workshop sessions (2 full days) will be offered each week between January and March, and we are offering a Saturday full day course
- Monthly training sessions from March onwards
- Available now to book through [Pod](#)
- Large organisations over 30 people please contact rachellejackson2@barnsley.gov.uk

Training Workshops

Workshop One - Introduction to the new early help assessment

Focus on:

- In depth look at the new Early Help Assessment
- Introduction to the signs of wellbeing model
- Worry statement and wellbeing goals with time built in for some practice examples
- Scaling question and how to use this within the assessment

Training Workshops

Workshop Two - Family network meetings and action planning

Focus on:

- In-depth look at the Family Network Action Plan and process
- Roles and responsibilities of members within a meeting including role of lead practitioner
- Gaining the voice of child and useful resources to use within your assessment
- EHA processes and what happens next

Practitioner Support

In addition to the training additional support for practitioners we will be offering weekly, from our early help development officers

EHA support sessions “Lunch and Chat”

- 2 x weekly online team sessions open to all practitioners held Monday and Friday 12pm-1pm
- Forum to ask any questions related to the EHA and process
- Starting date Monday 6th January
- [Monday Link :https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzE2NzAzMGQtN2QyOS00YTkxLWJjM2ItZmQ4OTA1ZDYyYTBh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ba6a2471-3340-4314-a969-48d8cdc4c4f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ef85da21-abe0-4496-9f62-312e98b872ea%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzE2NzAzMGQtN2QyOS00YTkxLWJjM2ItZmQ4OTA1ZDYyYTBh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ba6a2471-3340-4314-a969-48d8cdc4c4f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ef85da21-abe0-4496-9f62-312e98b872ea%22%7d)
- [Friday Link https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OTUxMzE5M2ItOGUwYy00ZWJlTk5NzgtZmY2MDUyYmFjY2lw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ba6a2471-3340-4314-a969-48d8cdc4c4f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ef85da21-abe0-4496-9f62-312e98b872ea%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OTUxMzE5M2ItOGUwYy00ZWJlTk5NzgtZmY2MDUyYmFjY2lw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ba6a2471-3340-4314-a969-48d8cdc4c4f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ef85da21-abe0-4496-9f62-312e98b872ea%22%7d)

Practitioner Support

New Family Network Review Meeting Support Session

- 2 x sessions Monday 16th December and Wednesday 18th December 12pm-1pm
- Go through the new paperwork
- Opportunity as to ask any questions
- Monday link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODViZGI0MTQtNWRmZi00MjlwLTg4YzItN2Y2N2RhYmYyZDkz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ba6a2471-3340-4314-a969-48d8cdc4c4f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ef85da21-abe0-4496-9f62-312e98b872ea%22%7d
- Wednesday link https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YWMwZjA3YmItNTM4Zi00MwVlWE3MDUtN2UzNzcxY2FmMwQ4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ba6a2471-3340-4314-a969-48d8cdc4c4f8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ef85da21-abe0-4496-9f62-312e98b872ea%22%7d

EHA consultation support sessions

- 1:1 support to discuss individual Early Help Assessments
- Further support required in a more confidential setting
- Sessions will be offered face to face or online
- Email earlyhelpdevelopmentofficer@barnsley.gov.uk

What to do now

- Take the time to go on the early help practitioner toolkit, familiarise yourself with the documents and download
- Read the frequently asked questions
- Book yourself on the workshop training
- Dates in your diary for the lunch and chat forums
- Lead practitioner, start to review your current Early Help Assessments to see if the needs reflect the family circumstances, review/audit on how long have they been open
- Start to use the Family network review meeting form and in your 1st meeting to agree what the worry statements and wellbeing goals are
- Discuss within your organisation in team meetings or with your line manager implementation of the new EHA
- Review your organisation EHA's currently open, have you processes in place for this

Quick Links:

- [Early Help Practitioner toolkit](#)
- [Virtual Family Hub](#)
- [Signs of Safety Model](#)
- Early help development officers: earlyhelpdevelopmentofficer@barnsley.gov.uk

Questions

