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Background

Our vision is for **'a Salford where strong families, strong networks and strong communities enable all children, young people and their families to start well, live well and be inspired to exceed expectations'**.

Most children and young people are happy, safe and live in homes where they are supported to achieve their potential. However, some families still experience poverty, inequality and challenges that mean they cannot thrive the way they want to.

Salford's Early Help Strategy sets out our partnership approach to early help and strategic aims make our vision a reality.

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What do we mean by early help?

Early help is the term we use to describe the way we work together with children, young people and their families to prevent problems occurring and provide support as soon as problems emerge or re-emerge. It is not a service provision but a collaborative approach. Children, young people and their families are best supported by people they know and trust. Most early help is provided by families, friends, and communities, and these are central to our strategy. Where families need support, effective early help relies on local agencies working together in partnership with families to build on strengths and assets, empower families and enable them to thrive.

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Why it matters?

Evidence tells us the sooner a family receives help, the sooner they are able to improve their situation and prevent the need for longer term support or statutory intervention. Recognition of this is clear in recent policy such as Working Together 2018. Statutory guidance focuses on the collective responsibility of all agencies to identify, assess and provide effective early help. Our Early Help Strategy should be considered alongside local guidance including 'Support and Safeguarding in Salford: Helping Children to Thrive'.

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Everybody's Business

Partners in Salford are committed to a collaborative approach, which means children, young people and their families receive the help they need as soon as they need it from the people best placed to help them.

'We will act early to provide help and support to families who need it. By establishing good relationships with families, we will build on their strengths and community networks to enable them to thrive.'

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More information

Our aim is to provide effective and high-quality early help to children, young people and their families in Salford – at the right time and place for them and from people who are confident and skilled.

Information, advice and support is available for Practitioners acting as the lead worker for a family: [Early Help Assessment and Team Around the Family](#).

Schools can utilise Salford Schools Partnership, a 'team around the school' approach to help children and young people to access support when they are showing early signs that they need additional help: [Salford School Partnership](#).



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Early Help in Practice

When someone identifies that a child, young person and their family needs help which cannot be met by a single agency alone, help is provided through a multi-agency response, underpinned by an Early Help Assessment and managed through Team Around the Family arrangements. A 'lead worker' is identified to lead on the assessment and coordinate help through a single plan agreed with the family. Any practitioner working with a family can be the 'lead worker'.

Where a family has more complex needs, requiring a multi-agency approach with longer and more intensive intervention, a referral to The Bridge may be made.

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Early Help in Practice

It is everybody's responsibility to identify where children, young people and their families require help from services to enable them to thrive.

Where families need help, we will **work with the whole family using a relational strengths-based approach**. The help families receive may be through a single agency or a multi-agency response as is appropriate to their needs. This means that families receive **'The right help at the right time from the right person'**.

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