

Trust Talk

Lancashire Children and Young People's Trust



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Issue 2 - Supplement

Early Support

The Early Support Strategy

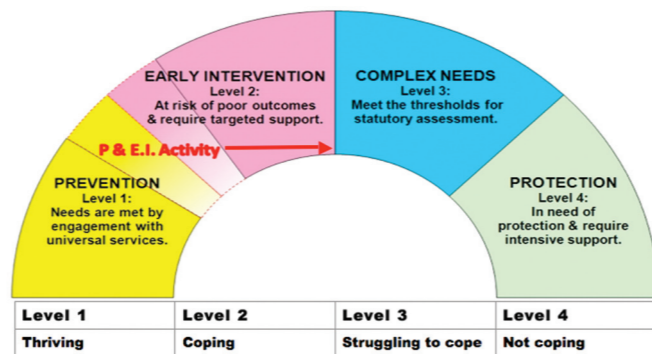
“Lancashire, the County where all Children, Young People and their Families are Resilient”

What is the Early Support Strategy for Lancashire?

Prevention and Early Intervention Support refers to a way of working. By working in this way we aim to ensure that the needs of children, young people and families who are vulnerable to poor outcomes are identified early. That needs are met by agencies working together effectively and in ways that are shaped by the views and experiences of the children, young people and families themselves. It seeks to build their resilience, increasing their capacity to manage challenging circumstances before poor outcomes develop. An early intervention support approach offers children, young people and families more than a solution to a specific problem; it offers them the skills to deal with a similar problem if it arises in future. Preventative interventions focus on reducing risk and promoting protective factors in the child as well as their cultural contexts (family, classroom, school, peer group, neighbourhood etc), thereby promoting resilience.

The Lancashire Continuum of Need focuses on four levels. In an attempt to explain what this means for families in language understandable to themselves and all agencies, we have used the wording: thriving, coping, struggling to cope and not coping. Preventative activity is delivered through universal services to which all children, young people and families have access to. Early intervention is a more targeted response to

identified needs and sits at level two and above on the continuum of need.



At the heart of this early intervention support is a commitment to actively involve children, young people and families in the assessment of need and action planning to meet those needs – to put children, young people and families at the centre of our planning.

What does our vision look like?

The vision for Lancashire's Early Support Strategy is to secure a county-wide approach within which all partners coordinate, prioritise and maximise their collective efforts to enable children, parents and families to become more empowered and resilient. Enabling our children and families to achieve success, resist stress, manage change and uncertainty, and make responsible decisions about their future. It will provide a framework to support partners in re-shaping existing services and working together more effectively, utilising existing resources in a more integrated way in order to secure better outcomes for children.

It is recognised that there have already been a number of prevention and early support initiatives in operation across the county over the last 3 years. These have been funded through a number of different funding streams, driven by different government agendas and measured by different performance criteria.

The Early Support Strategy over the next two years will embed an overarching framework, commissioning process, and communication tool to draw together these previous and future initiatives to enable us to share good practice and ensure the application of a coherent and consistent approach to Early Support across Lancashire.

Updates and Web Links

If you are interested in finding out more about the local and national Early Support Strategy, then you may find these web links useful:

Lancashire's Early Support website:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=5813&pageid=32721

Graham Allen MP has provided two reports to central government in the last 6 months. The first report Early Intervention: the next steps was published in January, it underlined that many of the costly and damaging social problems for individuals can be eliminated or reduced by giving children and parents the right type of evidence based programmes 0-18 and especially in their earliest years.

The second report sets out how we can pay for those programmes within existing resources and by attracting new non government money.

See both reports at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/graham-allen-launches-second-report-early-intervention

The Early Support Team

At the beginning of April 2011, the Early Support Team for Lancashire was established. The team comprises of twelve district Early Intervention and Support Development Officers, one administrator and one strategic officer. The purpose of the team is to co-ordinate the implementation and how we embed the Early Support Strategy for children, young people

and families, working with the District Children's Trusts. Further capacity will be built into the team from September 2011 to include an early and secondary years specialist.

How the strategy will work in your district

In each district your Early Support Officer will work closely with the District Children's Trust to set up an Early Intervention and Support sub group and resource panel. The purpose of these two groups will be to identify early on the needs of children, young people and families (panel) through a multi-agency approach and ensure the delivery of early intervention support strategy through local co-ordination of resources, services and pathways (sub-group). In addition the Early Support Officer will co-ordinate the following in each district:

- Reviewing the position of the common assessment framework within early support work.
- Co-ordinate the commissioning and monitor the performance of, early support initiatives.
- Evaluate lessons learned from those initiatives and encourage sustainability beyond the lifetime of project delivery through a multi-agency approach and reliance and skills development within the community of Lancashire.
- Identify the gaps in services and the resources can be pulled together through partnership approaches and service re-design to meet the needs of children, young people and their families.
- Ensure that children, young people and families are fully consulted and involved in the delivery of services which affect them.

If you want to know more about the Early Support Strategy in your area and how to become involved, then please refer to the map on page 2 for your local officer's details and current initiatives.

Children and Young People's Trust – Contact Us

If you would like to find out more about the Children and Young People's Trust in Lancashire please have a look on the website:

www.lancashirechildrenstrust.org.uk

There is also an e-mail address that you can use to get in touch with us childrenstrust@lancashire.gov.uk

EARLY SUPPORT IN LANCASHIRE

District initiatives and contacts

September 2011

Wyre

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A Family Support project delivered by a voluntary sector organisation will provide early intervention support to families across 7 high schools and feeder primary schools. This will be on a rolling 12 week basis per family and aim to improve the emotional and physical health and well being of children and families in the district

Fylde

Richard Bollands
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Initiatives will focus on: a group and 1:1 counselling service for children and young people with a range of emotional difficulties to improve attendance and concentration at school; a family liaison officer will work across 3 secondary schools to provide early support to young people and families; a family learning mentor will be trained in each primary school across the Fylde district; and the Solihull Approach will be rolled out to 140 multi- agency staff of the children and families workforce.

Preston

Simon Ashworth
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Initiatives will focus on: a family intervention support project which will support children aged 5-14 at risk of poor educational outcomes and their families across a cluster of primary and secondary schools; a targeted support service for children and young people aged 8-13 and their families, showing early signs of risk-taking and anti-social behaviour; a project aimed at reducing the number of under 18 conception rates in hotspot wards across Preston through working with young people and families to feel confident in talking about sexual health issues.

South Ribble

Louise Elo (Senior) /Ruksana Mulla
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Initiatives will focus on: a family intervention and support project shared with Chorley district providing targeted support for children, young people and families experiencing difficulties at key transition points in their lives; targeted preventative support for children, and young people to improve family relationships and increase learning motivation and self esteem; smaller scale activity that will focus on sporting activities for primary age children, developing the self esteem of young people involved in early stages of gang culture and sexual health awareness amongst teenagers. Funding via resource panel to address gaps in services and work force development.

West Lancashire

Joanne McGrath
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Initiatives will focus on: a Family Attachment Project which will provide targeted support to vulnerable children, young people and families where there are identified attachment issues to enable access to learning and direct support and provide workforce and community asset development by training the paid and volunteer children's workforce; a youth opportunities fund to support vulnerable young people to access activities, services and information to help improve their lives; a small projects fund will support children, young people and families through smaller scale early support activity across West Lancashire.

Lancaster

Debbie Dawson (Senior)
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Initiatives will focus on: developing a multi-agency database to support the resource panel approach; a parenting forum co-ordinator post; a spot commissioning approach focussing on a CAF assessment and total family way of working to meet the needs of children, young people and families within Lancaster.



Chorley

Louise Elo (Senior)
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Initiatives will focus on: a family intervention and support project shared with South Ribble district which will provide targeted support for children, young people and families experiencing difficulties at key transition points in their lives; a youth intervention project providing support, awareness and access to positive activities to young people aged 12-16, showing early signs of risk taking behaviour; a targeted secondary school mentoring service for pupils aged 11-13 experiencing barriers in learning and life; a small grant allocation to commission smaller scale activity delivered by voluntary, community and faith organisations to meet the needs of children, young people and families across the Chorley district, including rural areas. Funding via resource panel approach to address gaps in services and workforce development.

Ribble Valley

Debbie Ball
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A family intervention and support initiative will provide early support to children and families within the community. In addition, a counselling service will be provided through trained and qualified volunteers from the community to children and young people that are experiencing difficulties, either in a 1:1 setting or with their families.

Pendle

Cheryl Smith
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A volunteer capacity building service will aim to create a sustainable partnership model for the recruitment and training of volunteers placed within third sector organisations to support children, young people and their families and help build pathways to further agency support and build resilience within the community.

Burnley

Judith Gluyas
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Initiatives will focus on: an early support service for families with children under the age of 5 to help prepare the child and family for the transition to primary school; the co-ordination of a domestic violence support service; provide 1:1 counselling to secondary school pupils and their families; provide targeted family support to young people showing early signs of anti-social behaviour and their families and provide a telephone helpline service for females at risk of domestic violence.

Rossendale

Nicola Parker (Senior)
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A family support project will work with families across Rossendale, offering Early Support Interventions, based within each of the 5 Children's Centres and working in partnership with associated feeder primary and secondary schools.

Hyndburn

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A family intervention and support initiative provided by a third sector organisation will work with children, young people and families across Hyndburn via the total family assessment approach to achieve better outcomes for all families engaged with the service.

Early Support website:
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=5813&pageid=32721>



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