

Report to:	Health & wellbeing Board	Date of Meeting:	8 th June 2022
Subject:	Early Help Partnership Group		
Report of:	Communities	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Children's Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

This report summarises the role, remit and membership of the Early Help Partnership Group. It highlights strengths and areas of ongoing challenge, before detailing future priorities.

Recommendation(s):

To note this report

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Board provides oversight to this area of work

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Not applicable

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue costs identified within this report.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no capital costs identified within this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):

There are no resource implications

Legal Implications: N/A	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	N

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The Early Help Partnership Group provides oversight and secures evidence that partners ensure people who are receiving early help are safeguarded and early help is delivering positive outcomes.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: It aims to ensure that people of all ages receive timely, well-co-ordinated and good quality early help services.
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer: The Early Help Partnership group represents the offer across place for Early Help
Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener – N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6796/22) and Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4996/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

Please find the Sefton Integrated Early Help Strategy for Children, Young People and Families 2020-2025 as background material.

1. Introduction/Background

The Early Help Partnership Group was established in Summer 2019 to oversee the implementation of the Sefton Integrated Early Help Strategy for Children, Young People and Families 2019 - 2025

2. Role and purpose of the Early Help Partnership Group

The overarching purpose of the Early Help Partnership Group is to ensure that people of all ages receive timely, well-co-ordinated and good quality early help services. It provides oversight and secures evidence that people who are receiving early help are safeguarded and that early help is delivering positive outcomes.

Key objectives of the partnership include:

- Oversee the implementation and review of the Early Help Strategy and action plan.
- Members of the group to act as champions for early help on other strategic groups and partnerships, promoting the role of early help to safeguard and promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

- Identify gaps in provision and make recommendations for commissioning, joint commissioning and service improvements.
- Oversee the development and implementation of a quality assurance and audit framework for early help and regularly scrutinise the quality of early help practice (assessments, plans, reviews, interventions and outcomes).
- Ensure any training and development needs resulting from the implementation of the Early Help action plan are identified and acted upon
- To continuously improve and develop standard outcome measures for people supported by Early Help services to evidence the impact and overall effectiveness of early help.
- Identify and develop links across to other relevant plans and planning processes, maximising opportunities for alignment, joint working, integration and sharing resources and prevent duplication of activity.

3. Membership

The representatives of the Early Help Partnership group are varied and aim to cover a whole system approach to Early Help. They include representatives from:

Chair – Mersey Care	Sefton CVS	Mersey Care 0 to 19
Young Carers	VENUS	Supporting Families
SWACA	Career Connect	Education
Public Health	Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust	Probation
Parenting 2000	Merseyside Police	Light for life
Housing	Family Wellbeing Centres	Communities
DWP	CAMHS	Children’s Social Care
YJT	Business Intelligence	Workforce Development
Active Sefton	Inclusion Service	We Are With You
SSECCG – Designated Safeguarding Nurse		

4. Governance

The Early Help Partnership group operates within the governance framework of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is a subgroup of, and accountable to, the Health and Wellbeing Board for the development and delivery of the Early Help Strategy and health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and their families.

In addition to this, Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) also have oversight of Early Help by assessing the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families and how data and intelligence is effectively used to support this. This is primarily achieved through the Practice Model Group whose purpose is to provide a framework for multi-agency practice that is used across the whole partnership, which will evidence positive outcomes for children and their families. The Early Help Partnership group agenda is structured to reflect this oversight.

5. Strengths and Challenges

The Early Help Partnership has collectively identified several strengths, which if capitalised upon will provide leverage to the continued journey of development for both the partnership and the early help agenda. These include:

- A strong commitment from a broad range of members, who have expertise and knowledge
- A dedicated and skilled workforce who are passionate about improving outcomes for children, young people and families
- A group committed to overcoming barriers and finding solutions to how we improve and move forward.

However, the partnership has also identified several ongoing challenges for which we need to find solutions. These include:

- An increase in demand and complexity of cases within Early Help
- A method to better share and understand what each other offers, identify clear pathways and referral routes to avoid duplication and ensure families are signposted to the right support at the right time
- The ability to measure impact against a shared outcomes framework, with effective data sharing
- An effective data dashboard to enable the partnership to identify trends and/or gaps and flexibly alter delivery to meet emerging need
- Effective use of predictive data to offer a more proactive and less reactive approach

6. Future Priorities

The Early Help Partnership has identified several key priorities for the group to drive during 2022/23. These include:

- Embedding Supporting Families outcomes across the partnership
- Shared ownership and commitment across the partnership to focus on key aspects of the recent inadequate inspection outcome of Children's Services,

specifically addressing 'the serious gaps in Early Help services' and further developing 'the role of the lead professional which is largely absent'

- Working alongside Leeds Family Valued approach, invest in practice, prevention and relationships to reduce the flow in statutory services, particularly the numbers entering care.
- Ensuring adequate information sharing agreements are in place to support the development of effective data dashboards
- Reviewing pathways and methods to increase and drive access into early intervention and prevention-based services and associated communications to promote what is available.
- Development of cross partnership working on emerging areas of demand including homelessness prevention and school attendance
- Reviewing existing arrangements for capturing service users voice and how they become integral into the development of Early Help
- A focus on embedding key aspects of practice such as Reducing Parental Conflict and support for parenting
- Developing the role of Early Help Champions across the partnership workforce and providing opportunities for staff to shadow across providers to enhance the knowledge of provision for families.

7. Next Steps

The Early Help Partnership produces an Annual Report to detail the work of the partnership. This can be presented at a future meeting.