

## EARLY HELP

The agencies in North East Lincolnshire have agreements in place such as the Threshold document and the Local Protocol for Assessment (see **Family Support Pathway and Threshold of Need Child Concern Model**) which provides effective ways to identify emerging problems and potential unmet needs for individual children and families as well as clear guidance and procedures for all professionals, including those in universal services and those providing services to adults with children. For more information see the **Family Support Pathway, Threshold of Need and Child Concern Model Website**.

The local Threshold document includes information as follows:

- The criteria, including the level of need, for when a child should be referred to children's social care for assessment and for statutory services under:
  - Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (children in need);
  - Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 (safeguarding);
  - **Section 31** of the Children Act 1989 (care proceedings);
  - Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (duty to accommodate a child).

The Local Authority and partners are committed to supporting the delivery of a comprehensive range of early intervention services to improve the life chances and outcomes for all families in North East Lincolnshire.

The Children's Partnership Board have supported the development of a Prevention and Early Intervention strategy which sets out principles and priorities for early intervention. The plan identifies a holistic, early intervention approach to enhance outcomes for families and to reduce the need for costly, specialist services. The plan focuses on developing an integrated workforce that will support families in their local communities.

Early intervention is a core cross-cutting theme within the work of the Partnership and links directly to other overarching strategies and plans to ensure a cohesive approach.

Families must consent to a referral being made but once this has been done agencies involved can share information to improve integrated working thus making life easier for families.

Information to support the Early Help Assessment and Plan:

- Early Help Assessment and Plan Practice Guidance;
- Early Help Assessment Form

The Prevention and Early Intervention strategy sets out how we aim to support families at all levels of need and incorporates North East Lincolnshire's response to the Government's Troubled Families Programme. At all levels of need families will be asked to sign up to the process to enable integrated support but if they do not consent we may use formal contracts and parenting orders to ensure engagement. The additional funding attached to the Troubled Families programme will be used locally by partners to enhance and accelerate progress of the strategy.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For guidance on when a young person is competent to make their own decision about receiving services without their parents' consent use the **Fraser Competency Checklist**.

For a Screening Toolkit when you are concerned a young person may be taking drugs use the **Foundations Screening Tool**.