



Haringey Council

Report for:	Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Panel	Item Number:	
Title:	Early Intervention – Early Help		
Report Authorised by:	Libby Blake, Director CYPS		
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Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

The delivery of early intervention and preventative services in Haringey will be delivered through our Early Help Offer.

Haringey 54,000 is the Children and Young People's Department's transformational change programme that will create a changing relationship with the Borough's families. The programme will shift the focus towards universal and good and outstanding early help that will sustain families preventing the need for more costly services arising.

In Haringey, we believe Early Help is:-

Intervening early and as soon as possible to assist in finding solutions to emerging issues for children, young people and their families or with a population most at risk of poor outcomes. Effective intervention may occur at any point in a child or young person's life.

This definition includes both interventions early in life (with young children, including pre-natal interventions) and interventions early in the development of issues (with children or young people of any age).



2. Background information

During the past 18 months, there have been a range of reports and studies on early intervention. Government-sponsored reports include the Marmot Review on Health inequalities¹, Grasping the Nettle: Early intervention for children, Families and Communities², Dame Clare Tickell's report on the Early Years Foundation Stage³ and Allen's Early Intervention: The Next Steps.⁴

These reports have been consistent in their findings and recommendations, and recommend the following elements:

A commitment to prevention

- Priority focus on the early years, ensuring continuity into school
- Continuing early intervention in later years
- A multi-agency systems approach
- High quality of workforce
- Investment in programmes that work and supporting innovative working with children, young people and families

The Munro review of child protection identifies the provision of early help to families as being crucial in building resilience, improving outcomes for children (including educational attainment) and preventing more serious concerns for children and young people at later stages.

Munro has three key messages regarding the implementation of Early Help:-

- Preventative services will do more to reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services
- Co-ordination of services is important to maximise efficiency and avoid duplication and
- Within Early Help there needs to be good mechanisms to identify children and young people who are at risk of or who have suffered significant harm and need a service from Children's Social Care.

The work of the Social Work Reform Board (SWRB) is complementary to Munro's recommendations and has worked with partners in the children's social care sector, drawing on feedback on draft proposals, evidence from test sites and the recommendations of the Munro Review, and will develop tools that will be of practical help on the ground, and together bring about improvements to the whole system.

¹ Marmot M, Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Strategic Review of health inequalities in England post-2010, London: The Marmot Review, 2010

² C4EO, Grasping the Nettle: early intervention for children, families and communities, London, 2010

³ Tickell C, *The Early Years: Foundations for life, health and learning*, London: The Stationery Office, 2011

⁴ Allen G, *Early Intervention: The Next Steps*, London: The Stationery Office, 2011



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3. Current Haringey position:

The Haringey 54,000 Programme will deliver Haringey's multi-agency Early Help Offer; ensuring families can access the right services from the right settings at the right time, as well as a new approach to working with families with complex needs.

Haringey 54,000 will focus on the strengths of our families and promote a strengths perspective in working with families in difficulty whilst safeguarding children when they need it.

Practice will include a focus on successful, rather than problematic behaviours as a powerful lever for promoting change, enabling families to find solutions and work with agencies to agree on strategies and solutions to improve the life chances of their children.

In Haringey we currently deliver a range of Early Help services including:

- Children's Centres
 - Accessing Health Services: Health Visiting and Midwifery Services
 - Speech and Language Therapy
 - Language Support Groups
 - Advice and Information
 - Outreach and Early Intervention Service

- Youth, Participation and Community Teams
- Inclusion Service
- Evidence based Parenting Programmes
- DfE funded Multi-systemic Programme aimed at young people at risk of becoming looked after or entering the criminal justice system.
- Family Action: Building Bridges Project
- Increased resources to our Family Group Conferencing Service
- In partnership with Whittington Health the Family Nurse Practitioner Programme
- Barnardo's Mis U Project for young people at risk of running away from home

Early Help consultation events with managers and front line practitioners from a range of agencies have started to ensure we build on 'what works' and identify good practice across services. A programme of events to ensure the Programme captures the views and experiences of children, young people and their parents is being planned.

The Programme will work with services to create referral pathway arrangements that make sense and avoid duplication to allow families to access Early Help.

For families in Haringey with more complex needs, our Troubled Families Initiative (TFI) will look at different ways of engaging with them. Government's aim is for Local Authorities to turn around the lives of troubled families who are out of work, out of school, involved in criminal behaviour or anti-social behaviour.



Haringey's TFI strategy is to use an approach that builds on current successful practice and services to address the local need of our troubled families whilst ensuring that we are able to take full advantage of the payments by results funding available under the Troubled Families Initiative.

4. Early Help priorities

The Haringey 54,000 programme will drive through the changes to enable Haringey to deliver a multi-agency Early Help offer to residents:-

Priorities for action:

- Ensure the effective engagement with children, young people and families in the planning of Early Help.
- Deliver and implement a fully integrated referral pathway for 'Early Help' that avoids duplication and makes sense to families.
- Review the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in the context of our Early Help offer.
- Ensure Early Help is understood and actively supported across all Council departments.
- Ensure our Early Help complements and supports the range of other programmes within the Council and led by partner agencies to support children, young people and their families.

5. Recommendations

Scrutiny is asked to note the contents of this report and consider a detailed report on the Haringey 54,000 Programme at a later date.