

Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel Briefing

Date of meeting	1 December 2020
To	Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel
Title	Early Help for All Strategy
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Purpose of briefing	<p>This briefing provides an overview of our new Enfield Early Help for All Strategy and the work we have undertaken so far to develop it.</p> <p>We are seeking feedback and comments on the draft strategy from the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel.</p>

Background

Early help means taking action to support children, young people, families and vulnerable adults as soon as problems emerge to prevent further escalation. The need for early help may emerge at any point in an individual's life and can involve interventions early on in life, as well as interventions early in the development of a problem.

It requires a focused and collaborative approach across Council services and our partners to increase residents' access to available support and advice to enable them to become more resilient and manage their situations. By doing so, outcomes will improve and the need for intrusive and expensive interventions will be reduced.

Early help is one of the cross-cutting themes of the refreshed Council Plan 2020-22. The Early Help Strategy sets out how we will join up services across the Council and work with our partners to enhance resident's access to a range of co-ordinated prevention-based services. This will provide people with the support they need to build on their strengths and become more resilient, by ensuring that they have access to the help and support they need as early as possible. It supports our vision to create a lifetime of opportunity for everyone in Enfield.

This strategy will replace our previous Family Resilience/Early Help Strategy.

An overview of the strategy

Our vision is to work with our communities and partners to help everyone in Enfield to be resilient, overcome challenges and lead happy and fulfilling lives.

To achieve this vision, we have identified three main priorities with supporting action areas.

Priority one: Provide clear information, advice and support

Every individual in Enfield will have the knowledge of and access to the right support, at the right time, in the right place to tackle problems early.

- Provide easy access to universal services that support resilience, enable independence and self-care, and prevent or delay the escalation of need.
- Increase access to mental health support both online and face to face. This will be delivered in close partnership with children, young people, adults and mental health practitioners.

- In partnership with families, design and provide online parenting programmes as an alternative to face-to-face training. This will include Parental Conflict e-learning training.
- Support people to access the right volunteering role for them, ensuring they have the information and training they need to fulfil their role and benefit from it by developing their skills, experience, health and wellbeing.
- Increase the use of assistive technology to help residents live independently at home, stay safe, improve their wellbeing and help them to stay socially connected.
- Provide and commission support for carers so that they have access to resources that help them develop and maintain social connection.

Priority two: Empower communities

People will be motivated and empowered to take advantage of every opportunity the borough has to offer, to help themselves and their communities to make Enfield an even better place.

- Identify and map all recognised Early Help providers in Enfield to aid referral processes and partnership working.
- Empower Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and groups through capacity building, advice and support to help them continue to deliver community focussed projects in an inclusive and sustainable manner.
- Continue to support and empower the Parent Engagement Network and Parent Champions so that we provide services in partnership with parents and carers, and deliver family-focussed, holistic and inclusive services informed by the experiences and views of our communities.
- Work with our partners to support the volunteering which takes place across the borough and to establish a lasting legacy from our 'Enfield Stands Together' Programme, to enable communities to help and support one another into the longer term.
- Take every opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of seeking or providing early help for everyone, and the way in which that help can be accessed. This includes promoting the take-up of funded early years education.
- Develop our libraries into community hubs for everyone in Enfield to access help, support and inspiration to achieve the very best outcomes.
- Explore opportunities for adopting a community commissioning model as an approach to empower communities through an analysis of our commissioning and procurement process.

Priority three: Establish an effective early help system

There will be a whole-system approach to early help with strong leadership, a confident workforce and commitment to join-up and integrate resources and services.

- Continue to improve our early help offer by implementing the Troubled Families Service Transformation Maturity Model.
- Promote the benefits of early help and prevention and share best practice on effective approaches across the whole Council workforce and with our partners.
- Seek alternative funding streams and collaborate in leveraging in new financial resources to sustain and increase our early help offer and increase the response capacity of our workforce. This will include identifying funding for rolling out Trauma-informed Practice for schools.
- Work in partnership to provide a comprehensive training offer to help all staff in community settings and services to provide effective early help, including training on social prescribing and making every contact count.
- Work towards establishing a single assessment framework with shared data access to enable professionals to understand the individuals existing support packages and make additional referrals if needed. This will be sought from the individual during initial registration and will complement existing service specific databases.

Outcome measures

Once successfully delivered, this strategy will have a positive impact on a number of outcome measures across different age groups and sectors. We are currently in the process of developing an outcome measures framework to track progress we will achieve by driving this strategy forward.

Governance and monitoring arrangements

The Early Help Strategic board have been identified as the appropriate board for overseeing the successful delivery of this strategy. This board will be accountable for implementing the strategy's action plan and reviewing progress on quarterly basis. The board will review the outcome measures set out in the strategy on annual basis. The board will report progress update to Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board on annual basis. The annual review of the strategy will also include refreshing the strategy if deemed necessary based on the changes in circumstances and lessons learnt.

Developing the strategy

To inform the development of this strategy we have carried out a rigorous programme of engagement, deliberations and research so far.

We developed the initial draft framework of this strategy by undertaking extensive research and review of best practice and evidence at local, regional and national level as well as benchmarking with our neighbouring boroughs. Following this process, we organised intensive workshops and collaboration meetings with various sectors, organisations and community groups.

To listen to and gather the views of parents and carers on the draft strategy, we organised focus group discussions and administered questionnaires in close partnership with Voluntary and Community Sector VCS organisations and Parent Engagement Network PEN. We have also considered the findings from our engagement with children and young people as part of developing our new Children and Young People's Plan.

Furthermore, the Corporate Strategy Service have worked with colleagues including Councillors from across the council Directorates during the development process of this strategy. This approach has ensured that we have a strong backing for this strategy to be an overarching Early Help for all strategy.

Currently we are in the process of gathering feedback and comments from our partners across adults' sector including community-based organisations and groups. We are doing this through an online survey as well as presenting and discussing at the following partnership board and group meetings.

1. Members briefings
2. Safeguarding Children's Partnership
3. Safeguarding Adults Board
4. Early Help Strategic Board
5. Enfield Faith Forum
6. Voluntary Sector Strategy Group (VSSG)

Next steps

1- We will further develop and finalise the draft strategy, following the conclusion of our current engagement programme. Obtaining feedback from the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel is an important part of this process.

2. In line with the Constitution, Early Help For All Strategy is to be approved by Full Council booked in January 2021.

Appendix: Enfield Early Help For All Strategy (DRAFT)
