



Tameside Early Help Strategy 2023-2026

Paula Sumner - Assistant Director of Early Help and Partnerships





Introduction

Early help means providing extra support to families to prevent problems from occurring or getting worse. These may include:

- Young people struggling at school, nursery or education setting,
- Mental health problems within the family,
- A young person or child missing healthcare appointments or leading an unhealthy lifestyle,
- A young person, parents or their family members using drugs or alcohol
- A young person, parents or their family members getting involved with crime
- Parents struggling financially

In Tameside this support comes from practitioners, usually in nurseries, schools or health settings. Early Help Advisers from the Local Authority are there to help support practitioners to coordinate this help. This includes the earliest possible intervention for those children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.





Reasons for updating the strategy

- To align our response with the refreshed Thresholds Document – [Tameside Framework for Help and Support](#) to clarify what type of support is available at each level of need.
- To incorporate recommendations from recent OFSTED inspections and the change in OFSTED inspection criteria, McAlister Review and the latest national Children's Social Care [Strategy Stable Homes Built on Love](#)
- To respond to the launch of Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme, recognising the enhanced opportunities for early intervention that they offer.
- To acknowledge the impacts of recent national crisis such as the pandemic and cost of living crisis on our children and families and the need for multi-agency, holistic support.





Key Principles of the Strategy

The principles to our strategy and approach are:

- Supporting and helping children and families at the earliest opportunity - the right help, at the right time, from the right place.
- Actively listening to the voices of children and families in line with the [Listening Framework](#)
- Holistic support is provided with families, bespoke to their needs.
- Proactively utilising Signs of Safety to help assess risks, concerns and identify solutions in partnership with children and families.
- Support and help is delivered with children and families, building on their strengths and supporting them to come up with solutions with the help of their network.





Key Principles continued

- Understanding that safeguarding is everyone's business. Everyone working with children, young people and their families understands they are responsible for keeping children safe and promoting the welfare of children.
- Acknowledging that many situations need a multiagency, trauma informed response, all agencies will work collaboratively to offer a coordinated response and avoid duplication.
- Everybody is confident with data protection principles and will proactively share information to help recognise, assess and act to provide a coordinated response to the needs of the child and the family.
- No one should assume that someone else will pass on information which may be vital to keeping a child or young person safe.





Consultation

To create the initial draft of the strategy, two interactive workshops were held with representatives from VCSFE sector, Health, the council and Police. These established what participants felt was working well and what needed improvement within the borough and led to the creation of the priorities of the strategy.

We intend to seek further feedback from the following groups:

- Youth Council
- Starting well partnership
- SEND Council
- Cared for Children's Council
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Tameside Community Safety Partnership
- Tameside Provider Partnership
- Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership

An [online survey](#) is being promoted on social media and has been circulated internally and to partners (including schools) and families.





Governance and Timescales

Online consultation ends 05/05/2023 – Public promotion to end 26th March

Assistant Director Delivery Group - 23/05/2023

Senior Leadership Team – 30/05/2023

Board – 14/06/2023

Executive Cabinet - 28/06/2023





Next Steps

- Launch the New Strategy July 2023
- Work across the Partnership to develop the Implementation
- Governance and Reporting Process

