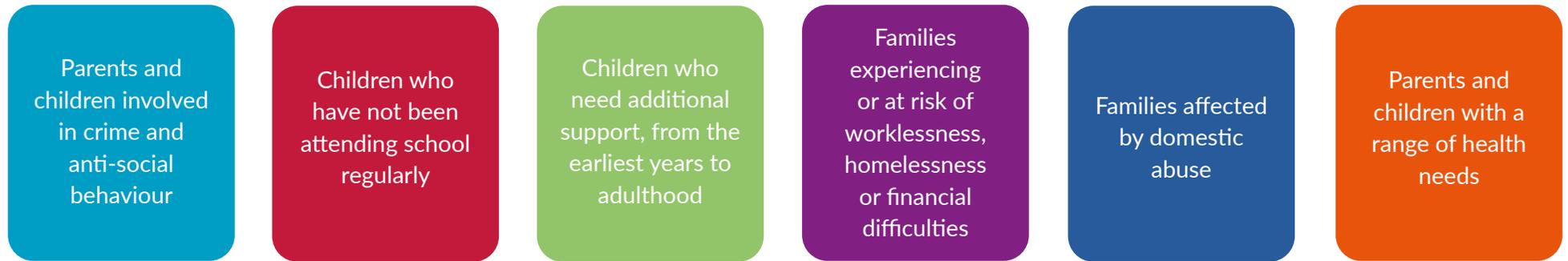


# Family First Criteria and Outcomes for Early Help Assessment

V12 March 2020



## Herefordshire's Family Outcomes Framework

- Families will be identified by a number of means across the 6 main headline areas above – through information sharing of data sets with partners or through nominations or referrals from individual professionals. This is detailed below giving the data sources for identifying issues in families.
- Herefordshire's early help approach is currently being developed as part of the priorities within the new Children and Young People's Plan, but it is expected that an early help intelligence function will be established that will triangulate intelligence from partners to understand the issues within the family. Where the family is not already assessed and / or receiving support then their situation would be risk assessed to be able to prioritise families for assessment and support where appropriate.
- Practitioner's working with families should undertake a well conducted family assessment, working with all family members to identify the issues that need to be addressed. This will form the basis of a holistic family outcomes plan, which will address the issues and outcomes the family is aiming to achieve. This in turn facilitates the actions to achieve those outcomes in a well-coordinated and effective approach using evidence based techniques and practices.
- At least 2 of the main headline areas above need to be present in the family. Practitioners will need to work with families to agree their outcomes, including outcomes from the appropriate sections of the outcome plan below, and write them in to the EHA family action/ outcome plan.
- If an additional issue arises, or becomes apparent, during the course of any support intervention with a family, an outcome must also be achieved for those problems to demonstrate the family has achieved significant and sustained progress.

## Completing the Early Help Assessment - Things to consider

All forms can be completed electronically, however, the consent page will need to be ticked and signed by hand. Unsigned Early Help Assessment forms will not be accepted. Consent is required for all family members to be included in the Early Help Assessment documentation by inserting a 'Y' in the relevant box.

All forms integrate Families First identification information. Recorded outcomes should reflect, where possible, those that are recommended in the Families Outcome Framework. The action plan should contain an indicator number and outcome number, e.g.

Families First Area	Families First Indicator and Outcome Code		Desired Outcomes	Action
School attendance	2f	4	Joanne to attend school for at least 90% of sessions across the last three school terms, excluding authorised absences.	<p>School, CAMHS, and mother to discuss Joanne's attendance and how to encourage Joanne to attend school</p> <p>Professionals to plan a time table to introduce and integrate Joanne to increase attendance and full time education.</p>

Any additional outcomes that are specific to that young person or family but not part of the Families Outcomes Framework may be recorded as usual. All forms contain a well-being scale. This is optional and may be used by families and professionals as an easy to see measurement of where the family or young person thinks they are at the start of the Early Help Assessment process, during the support and finally, where they are when the Early Help Assessment closes.

# 1. Parents and children involved in crime and anti-social behaviour

To reduce the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system

To reduce the level of police call outs

To reduce the percentage of offenders who re-offend

Indicators - what issues could be present in a family	Matching outcome: (choose one)	Individual family outcomes:	Closure outcome evidence measured by:
1a) A child who has committed a proven offence in the previous 12 months.	1, 3	1. There is a 50% reduction compared to the previous 6 months in the number of recorded offences committed by the family	Recorded offences by police (date committed, type of offence)
1b) An adult or child who has received an anti-social behaviour intervention (or equivalent local measure) in the last 12 months.	2, 3	2. There is a 60% reduction compared to the previous 6 months in the number of incidences of anti-social behaviour committed by the family	Recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour from police, youth offending service, housing providers, environmental health teams (date committed, type of offence)
1c) An adult prisoner (who will have parenting responsibilities on release) or young person (who will be returning to the family home) in a secure unit who is less than 12 months from his/her release date.	1	3. No siblings of young offenders have engaged in anti-social behaviour and / or criminal activity in the previous 6 months, and do not enter the youth justice system for the first time.	Early Help Assessment – closure form completed with outcome information.
1d) An adult who is currently subject to a licence or supervision in the community, following release from prison, and has parenting responsibilities.	1		Family Support (internal team, Vennture & Homestart) final report completed with outcome information.
1e) An adult currently serving a community order or suspended sentence, who has parenting responsibilities.	1		
1f) Adults and children nominated by professionals because of their potential to offend or offending behaviour is of equivalent concern to the indicators above. For example, where family members are at risk of radicalization.	1, 2, 3		
1g) An adult or child involved in a gang; county lines linked crime and exploitation; and/or serious violence (including offensive weapon crime such as knife crime, gun crime and robbery) in the last 12 months (either as a victim or a perpetrator).	1, 3		

## 2. Children who have not been attending school regularly

To reduce the number of children and young people with permanent and fixed exclusions at school

To increase the % of children and young people that make expected rates of progress in English and Maths

Indicators - what issues could be present in a family	Matching outcome: (choose one)	Individual family outcomes:	Closure outcome evidence measured by:
2a) A child whose average attendance over the last three consecutive terms is less than 90 per cent, excluding authorised absence.	4, 6	4. A) In order to tackle incidences of high unauthorised absence, each school age child in the family has attended school for at least 90% of sessions across the last three school terms, <b>excluding authorised absences.</b>	Schools census and school attendance data
2b) A child who has received at least 3 fixed term exclusions in the last 3 consecutive school terms; or a child at primary school who has had at least 5 school days of fixed term exclusion in the last 3 consecutive terms; or a child of any age who has had at least 10 days of fixed term exclusion in the last 3 consecutive terms.	5	B) A school age child has reached a significant milestone, i.e. a child's attendance was below 40% at the start of the intervention and an increase in attendance of at least 40% has been achieved, with the child reaching a minimum of 50% attendance, of sessions across the last three school terms.	Number of days absent 3 terms prior to intervention, and 3 terms since the intervention start date.  Show reduction of exclusions and increased attendance with dates and number of exclusions 3 terms prior intervention and 3 terms into intervention.
2c) A child who is in alternative educational provision for children with behavioural problems.	4, 5, 6		Enrolment in another form of education (start date, attendance)
2d) A child who has been permanently excluded from school within the last 3 school terms.	5, 6		Early Help Assessment – closure form completed with outcome information.
2e) A child who is neither registered with a school, nor being educated in an alternative setting	4, 6	5. Each school age child in the family has fewer than three fixed term exclusions within the last three school terms.	Family Support (internal team, Vennture & Homestart) final report completed with outcome information.
2f) A child nominated by education professionals as having school attendance problems of equivalent concern to the indicators above because he/she is not receiving a suitable full time education.	4, 6	6. Child is engaging with alternative forms of schooling (e.g. hospital or home schooling)	

### 3. Children who need additional support, from the earliest years to adulthood

To reduce the number of children and young people needing to be looked after.

To increase from 60% to 80% the proportion of all children achieving a Good Level of Development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage

To maintain the number of children subject to child protection in line with statistical neighbours

Indicators - what issues could be present in a family	Matching outcome: (choose one)	Initial information and evidence from:	Individual family outcomes:	Closure outcome evidence measured by:
3a) A child who has been identified as needing early help	7, 9, 12	<p>Information from local authority early years providers (e.g. children's centres) about children who don't take up the Early Years Entitlement, by cross-referencing a list of those children eligible with those who are not in an early years setting.</p> <p>Information from local schools about children identified in the School Census as having social, emotional and mental health problems.</p> <p>Information about children who have been reported missing from home and identified as of concern.</p>	<p>7. Families who are eligible are taking up the 2 and 3 year old offer of nursery places</p> <p>8. There is an appropriate de-escalation or step-down of a safeguarding plan - i.e. from child protection (CP) to children in need (CIN) to Early Help Assessment (EHA) and there is no re-referral to social care after 6 months following the end of the plan</p> <p>9. Children in the family are making good progress at school or a good/expected level of development in Early Years</p> <p>10. Attendance at a Parenting course or engaging with 1-2-1 support around parenting strategies.</p> <p>11. The family are/having taking part in a wider range of community activity</p> <p>12. Keep safe work has been undertaken by family member.</p>	<p>Early years take up figures</p> <p>Social care records -, Herefordshire Council.</p> <p>Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Annual Results or 2 Year Assessment Results and Integrated Reviews</p> <p>Teachers reports/assessments. Family / health worker case notes / assessment</p> <p>Parents assessment/ Practitioner case notes (dates of course, name of organisation and practitioner).</p> <p>Wider range of community activity: Examples could include library membership, joining sport/leisure groups or involvement in specific activities.</p>

Indicators - what issues could be present in a family	Matching outcome: (choose one)	Initial information and evidence from:	Individual family outcomes:	Closure outcome evidence measured by:
3b) A child who has been assessed as needing early help	8	Information from Children's Services or related multi-agency teams about children who are: - repeatedly assessed under Section 17 or 47, of the Children Act 1989, but not deemed 'a child in need' - subject to Early Help Assessments as part of a step down plan.		Early Help Assessment – closure form completed with outcome information.  Family Support (internal team, Vennture & Homestart) final report completed with outcome information.
3c) A child 'in need' under Section 17, Children Act 1989.	8	Children services assessments		
3d) A child who has been subject to an enquiry under Section 47, Children Act 1989.	8	Children services assessments		
3e) A child subject to a Child Protection Plan.	8	Children services assessments		

Indicators - what issues could be present in a family	Matching outcome: (choose one)	Initial information and evidence from:	Individual family outcomes:	Closure outcome evidence measured by:
<p>3f) A child on an Early Help Assessment :  A child nominated by professionals as having problems of equivalent concern to the indicators above. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- children affected by parental conflict</li> <li>- A child with SEND, including social, emotional and mental health needs</li> <li>- children at risk of exploitation (including sexual exploitation)</li> <li>- children identified as not achieving expected levels of attainment in school</li> <li>- children with challenging behaviour</li> <li>- teenage parents</li> <li>- young looked after mother / father who have already had children removed</li> <li>- young carers</li> <li>- a child where there have been missing from home incidents in the last 12 months.</li> </ul>	<p>7, 9, 10, 11, 12</p>	<p>Nominations from schools, early years providers, (including Children's centres), health visitors, police and other professionals. Recommendation from MASH referral.</p>		
<p>3g) A child identified as having a delay in speech, language and communication skills. This can include children not reaching the threshold in the communication domain at the 2-2.5 year old health check carried out by health visitors.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Children identified by early years settings or by health professionals as having speech, language and communication needs. The need is primary (not linked to another impairment), and the child does not have an Education, health and Care Plan.</p>		

## 4. Families experiencing or at risk of worklessness, homelessness or financial difficulties

To reduce the number of people reliant on out of work benefits

To increase the % of 16-18 year olds who are in education, employment or training \*

To reduce the % of children in low-income families

To increase the number of employers across the county paying the living wage / average wage

Indicators - what issues could be present in a family	Matching outcome: (choose one)	Individual family outcomes:	Closure outcome evidence measured by:
4a) An adult in receipt of out of work benefits or an adult who is claiming Universal Credit and subject to work related conditions.	13, 14, 15	13. An adult or young person in the family has secured and maintained a job (full or part time) for 6 months (individuals claiming JSA, UC) and 3 months (individuals claiming other benefits as per the Troubled Families guidance)	Individual no longer claiming out of work benefits, evidenced through DWP automated benefits check; young person not registered as NEET.
4b) A child who is about to leave school, has no/ few qualifications and no planned education, training or employment.	13, 14, 15		Practitioner records. Family outcome plan.
4c) A young person who is not in education, training or employment.	13, 14, 15	14. An adult or young person in the family have made progress to work through volunteering placement, progression into an apprenticeship, traineeship or further accredited learning. This is sustained for 12 weeks/ or completes a course for up to 8 weeks	Early Help Assessment – closure form completed with outcome information.
4d) Parents and families nominated by professionals as being at significant risk of financial difficulties. This may include those with problematic / unmanageable levels and forms of debts, those with significant rent arrears and those experiencing in work poverty. Families at risk of homelessness or living in accommodation that it is not reasonable for them to continue to occupy.	16	15. An adult or young person in the family has completed and achieved a qualification, apprenticeship or achieved other milestones that supports progression into continuous paid work	Family Support (internal team, Vennture & Homestart) final report completed with outcome information.
During Covid 19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family member is temporarily out of work due to Covid 19 and will be work ready when the crisis subsides, and/or</li> <li>Family member has developed Curriculum Vitae and will be ready to apply for jobs when this is possible, and/or</li> <li>Family member has achieved a temporary job or volunteered supporting the Covid 19 effort</li> </ul>	14, 15	16. Family have reduced debt or risk of financial exclusion, e.g. reduced council tax or housing arrears and are accessing eligible benefits including free school meals	

\* Public Health Outcomes Framework

## 5. Families affected by domestic abuse

To increase reporting of domestic violence and abuse into formal reporting routines

Indicators - what issues could be present in a family	Matching outcome: (choose one)	Individual family outcomes:	Closure outcome evidence measured by:
5a) A young person or adult known to local services has experienced, is currently experiencing or at risk of experiencing domestic abuse.	17, 18	17. There is a reduction in domestic abuse: including sexual violence, stalking and so called 'honour-based' violence (which includes female genital mutilation and forced marriage) within the family for at least 6 months.	Family worker case notes; local risk assessment tools.  Dates of course and details of worker at the organisation who arranged placement. Did they attend the course?
5b) A young person or adult who is known to local services as having perpetrated an incident of domestic abuse in the last 12 months.	19	18. Families that are affected by domestic abuse are actively engaged with local or digital support services. Reduction of risk at exit as assessed by case worker and no further incidents recorded in the past 6 months.	Recorded police call-outs to domestic incidences – (dates of incidents for 6 months prior to intervention and dates of incidents 6 months since intervention started or conviction date).  No reports of incidences from other agencies.
A young person or adult who is known to local services as having perpetrated an incident of sexual violence or abuse in the last 12 months.			
A young person or adult who is known to local services as having perpetrated an incident of so-called 'honour-based' violence or abuse in the last 12 months.			
5c) The household or family member has been subject to a police call out for at least one domestic incident in the last 12 months, including for so-called 'honour-based' abuse, in the last 2 months.	17	19. Perpetrator of domestic abuse is actively engaged and successfully completes a perpetrator program.	Early Help Assessment – closure form completed with outcome information.  Family Support (internal team, Vennture & Homestart) final report completed with outcome information.

## 6. Parents and children with a range of health problems

To reduce the prevalence of dental decay at age 5 so that the mean is equal or better than the England mean\*

To increase to 95% the take up for all routine immunisations in 0-5 year olds\*

To reduce hospital admissions for unintentional and deliberate injuries in 0-4 year olds from 25th percentile to between 25th – 75th percentile\*

To reduce the proportion of pregnant women who are smokers at the time of delivery to above the 75th percentile for England\*

To reduce the prevalence of young people smoking, drinking and misusing substances

Indicators - what issues could be present in a family	Matching outcome: (choose one)	Individual family outcomes:	Closure outcome evidence measured by:
6a) An adult (who has parenting responsibilities) with mental ill-health across mild, moderate or severe needs. A child with mental ill-health across mild, moderate or severe needs.	28	20. Family is registered with local GP  21. Family is registered with local dentist and attended a check-up in the last 12 months.	Family/health worker case notes / assessment or GP practice confirmation.  Family outcome plan  Early Help Assessment – closure form completed with outcome information.
6b) An adult with parenting responsibilities and a substance misuse problem, a child with substance misuse issues themselves or a child exposed to substance use in their home.	24	22. Children have received age appropriate health immunisations / vaccinations.  23. Family member has engaged with a smoking cessation programme and is demonstrating progress towards cessation	Family Support (internal team, Vennture & Homestart) final report completed with outcome information.  Dates and names of who you spoke to.
6c) Expectant or new parents, with a mental health or substance misuse problem and other health factors which may affect their parenting, or a young child where there are concerns regarding their physical, social or emotional development.	22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31	24. Family member has engaged with a drug / alcohol treatment programme with a support plan and is demonstrating progress towards reducing harmful behaviour.  25. Family member has engaged with a healthy weight programme and is demonstrating progress towards a healthy lifestyle.	Details of support, worker and dates.
6d) Adults with parenting responsibilities or children who are nominated by health professionals as having any mental and physical health problems of equivalent concern to the indicators above. This may include unhealthy behaviours, resulting in problems like obesity, malnutrition or diabetes.	22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31		
6e) Household members not registered with a dentist or GP	20, 21		
6f) A child eligible for an Educational Health care Plan	30		

Indicators - what issues could be present in a family	Matching outcome: (choose one)	Individual family outcomes:	Closure outcome evidence measured by:
		<p>26: Pregnant women are under the care of a midwife and have had an ante-natal assessment by a Health Visitor</p> <p>27. All children aged 2½ years have had an age/stage health assessment.</p> <p>28. Family member has engaged / is engaging with a support service or mental health service to improve their mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>29. Family member that has a health condition, which is not listed above such as epilepsy, cancer etc., (this is not definitive list) but is engaging with the appropriate support services and /or treatment.</p> <p>30. Educational Health Care Plan being implemented or referral for assessment is progressing.</p> <p>31. Receiving appropriate professional support within a 6 month period (to replace some of the above).</p>	

### How Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 links into the TFOP

#### Early help

Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Early help can also prevent further problems arising; for example, if it is provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care, or in families where there are emerging parental mental health issues or drug and alcohol misuse.

Effective early help relies upon local organisations and agencies working together to:

- identify children and families who would benefit from early help
- undertake an assessment of the need for early help
- provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family, which focuses on activity to improve the outcomes for the child

Local authorities, under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, have a responsibility to promote inter-agency co-operation to improve the welfare of all children.

## Appendix A

Practitioners should, in particular, be alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- **is disabled and has specific additional needs** (*this would come under headline area 6, Parents and children with a range of health needs, and would come under indicator 6d and potentially outcome 29 or 31*)
- **has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan)** (*this would come under headline area 3, Children who need additional support, from the earliest years to adulthood, and would come under indicator 3f and outcome 9, or 3g and outcome 9 if Speech & Language delay identified but no EHCP.*)
- **is a young carer** (*this would come under headline area 3, children who need additional support, from the earliest years to adulthood, under indicator 3f and outcome 11 and 12*)
- **is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups** (*this would come under headline area 1 & 3, Parents or children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour and Children who need additional support, from the earliest years to adulthood, under indicator 1g and 3f and outcome 1,3, 10 and 12*)
- **is frequently missing / goes missing from care or from home** (*this would come under headline area 3, Children who need additional support, from the earliest years to adulthood, and would come under indicator 3f and outcome 10 and 12*)
- **is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation** (*this would come under headline area 1, Parents or children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour under indicator 1f and outcome 3*)
- **is at risk of being radicalised or exploited** (*this would come under headline area 1, Parents or children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour under indicator 1f and outcome 3*)
- **is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse** (*this would come under headline area 5 and 6, Families affected by domestic abuse and Parents and children with a range of health needs, under indicator 5a, 6a, 6b and 6c and outcome 17,18, 24 and 28*)
- **is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves** (*Parents and children with a range of health needs, and would come under indicator 6b and outcome 24*)
- **has returned home to their family from care** (*this would come under headline area 3, Children who need additional support, from the earliest years to adulthood, and would come under indicator 8, if step down, or 10*)
- **is a privately fostered child** (*this would come under headline area 3, Children who need additional support, from the earliest years to adulthood, and would come under indicator 10*)

### Working together to safeguard children 2018:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>