

# Early Help

- Early Help means providing help for children and families as soon as problems start to emerge or when there is a strong likelihood that problems will emerge in the future (Level 2 or Level 3 of Right Help, Right Time).
- Early help uses the ethos of Signs of well-being.
- Early help is also suitable for cases that have been at Level 4, where enough progress has been made to step down to level 3. This means that there are some outstanding needs or a period of ongoing support is required to maintain the current progress.
- There is a step down process that social worker should follow if they decide that a case can be supported at level 3 (early help).
- Early help has 3 types of family support available:
  - Homestart (low level 3)
  - Vennture (level 3 – longer term support)
  - Herefordshire Council Early Help Family Support (high level 3 – intensive family support)
- Early help co-ordinators are available to support professionals, families and social workers with the process on completing early help assessments and details of support available.

# Step down from social care

**Social worker completes CAFA/CIN/CP work and decision is support required via early help.**

## Step 1

- Discuss what worries exist and what are the next steps required to improve the situation with family:
  - Gain consent to share with early help, other professionals and to be reviewed at MAG meetings.
  - Agree a key professional to oversee the progress

## Step 2

- Devise a draft EHA plan
- Book a 15 minute slot with E.H Co-ordinator on a Tuesday morning.
  - Actions will be discussed and the most appropriate support recommended
- 'Step down EHA' with action plan started on Mosaic.

## Step 3

- Share contents of EHA with parents (Verbal consent must be written on the plan).
- Finish step on Mosaic and task to EH team manager.
- SW team manager can close the case if all the steps have been completed.

## Step 4

- **Early Help co-ordinator should:**
- Check the accuracy of the step down and raise a query if any information missing.
- Process the step down and assign to the locality EH co-ordinator.