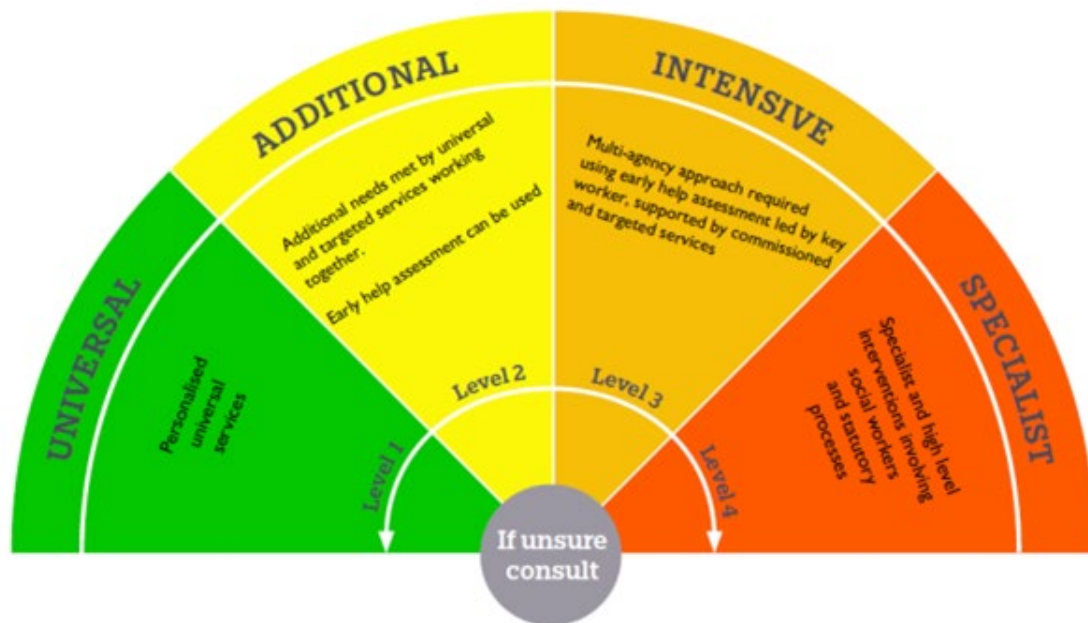


## Safer Communities Fund – FAQs

*This document has been put together to provide answers to some of your questions about the scheme. We will continue to add to this document as more questions or clarifications arise.*

### Q What is Early Help?

A: The diagram below sets out the 4 levels of need that services and professionals will use to ensure the right help is provided at the right time to the right children and families.



#### Level 1. Universal

Children and young people making good overall progress in all areas of their development and receiving appropriate universal services such as health and education.

#### Level 2. Additional

Children, young people and their families are experiencing emerging problems, or have additional needs that require some targeted support. They are likely to require early help for a time limited period, to help them move back to Universal (level 1) and reduce the likelihood of needing level 3 more intensive support.

#### Level 3. Intensive

Children, young people and families with identified vulnerabilities who are experiencing multiple and complex needs and are likely to need intensive multi-agency co-ordinated approach. They are likely to require longer term help.

#### Level 4. Specialist

Children, young people and their families who are experiencing very serious or complex needs that are having a major impact on their expected outcomes or there is serious concern for their safety. This may be as children in need - CIN (Section 17 of the Children Act 1989) or as children in need of protection- CP (under section 47 of the Children Act 1989). Children, young people and families receiving intervention at level 4 need are supported, where possible, to reduce the seriousness and complexity of need and are then enabled to step down to Early Help support or Universal services as appropriate.

Through this grant scheme the Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia are looking for projects that focus on level 2, but expect that there may also be an increase in level 3 Early Help Assessments (as a result of working with more people) and want organisations to take the lead on these Early Help assessments and the resulting support.

For more information about Early Help please see Herefordshire Councils [Early Help and Prevention Strategy](#).

**Q. If the target audience is children and young people aged 5 to 18 years (25 for SEND), does that mean that projects can't work with children under the age of 5?**

A. We are looking for projects that take a whole family approach, so if the family includes children under the age of 5, we would expect you to support them too.

**Q. How often do the panel meet and how quick would the decision be?**

A. The panel will meet monthly, the decision needs to be signed off and a grant funding agreement drawn up, so allow approx. 6 weeks for a decision.

**Q. When should projects start and end?**

A. When thinking about your project start date, please allow enough lead in time for panel and decision making etc. as outlined in the question above. The deadline for all claims and reports is 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to allow for assessing final claims and to go back for any further evidence required. All monies must be defrayed by the Council before the end of the 24/25 financial year, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. If for example there is an invoice that goes up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 but has been paid by the applicant in advance of that in, say in February 2025, then as long as we have all of the necessary paperwork (invoice and bank statement) and it is an eligible expenditure item, then this will be allowed.

**Q. Do we need quotes for all costs?**

A. You don't need quotes for staff costs, but do need them for other costs.

**Q. Does the funding cover overhead costs?**

A. If you have direct staff costs for delivering your project, the spreadsheet you will complete to submit with your application will automatically include 15% to cover overheads.

**Q. If we are working with families where there are siblings who may not be within the age bracket but it would be deemed beneficial for them to also attend in an early intervention approach would that be acceptable under the terms of the grant criteria?**

A. Yes, we are keen that projects take a whole family approach to their work.

**Q. Can an organisation make more than one application i.e. for more than one project?**

A: We will only accept one application per organisation, but are happy for that application to cover more than one activity / project.

**Q. Could two organisations working in partnership make a combined bid?**

A. Yes, we fully support this approach, but would need one organisation to be the lead organisation.

**Q. Will working with individuals or groups with a protected characteristic who due to this are more at risk be considered within the weighting of the application?**

A. Not directly. We have given additional weighting to projects happening in areas of deprivation. If your target group doesn't fit within a physical area, please include a clear explanation and data about the challenges your target group face.

**Help with your application**

If you need some help with developing your project ideas you can contact the Talk Community Team via email: [TalkCommunityEnquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:TalkCommunityEnquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk)

If you need some help with a technical issue e.g. trouble with the formatting of the application form or spreadsheet, please contact the delegated grants team: [delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk)