

# EARLY HELP & RESOURCE PANELS 0-19 Years

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who are the Early Help and Resource Panel members?

Panel members are representative of the agencies providing targeted Early Help to children aged 0-19 years and up to 25 for children with a disability in Walsall.

- Early Years
- Mental Health
- School Health/Health Visiting
- Housing
- Education
- YSS (TYS)
- DV
- Alcohol/substance misuse
- Inclusion
- Early Help

### What does the Early Help & Resource Panel do?

- The panel will have two strands, the first part will be to have responsibility for quality assurance of early help assessments, and the panel will also offer advice and guidance in relation to the assessment.
- The second strand will be to offer advice and guidance in relation to any unmet need, this may include signposting to other agencies to support this, or in some circumstances this may include funding, however the identified lead professional must clearly evidence throughout the assessment that this need cannot be addressed through any other means.

### Who can refer to the Early Help & Resource Panel?

Any professional who has completed an assessment and identified that a child, or young person has unmet needs.

### When should professionals make a referral to the Early Help & Resource Panel?

When they have undertaken an assessment that identifies needs that cannot be met entirely within their own service area but it is unclear who can provide the best solution to meet the additional needs.

**Or**

When they require advice about what solutions can be found to meet the child/young person's Early Help needs. The Panel will consider childcare and other financial support, however this will need to be evidenced that it is an unmet need that is impacting on the child or will prevent significant positive change for the child.

### **When shouldn't referrals be made to the Early Help & Resource Panel?**

If an assessment of the child or young persons needs has not been undertaken.

When there is a clear solution to meeting the child's needs.

### **How to refer to the Early Help and Resource Panel?**

Complete an Early Help referral form which is available from the 'Mywalsall' [www.mywalsall.org/professional/](http://www.mywalsall.org/professional/) Send the form with the assessment to Early Help Admin Team on 01922 650763 or E-mail: [earlyhelpleadprofessional@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelpleadprofessional@walsall.gov.uk) if you do not have secure e-mail please phone and fax your paperwork to 01922 686440.

### **Why does there have to be a completed assessment prior to referral to panel?**

Professional decision making needs to be based on properly assessed need to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved for children and young people.

### **Does the Assessment have to be on an Early Help Assessment form?**

The Early Help and Resource Panel endorse the Early Help Assessment Form (EHAF) as this will demonstrate analysis of the assessment information. Other types of assessment will be accepted where there is sufficient information and analysis to inform professional decision making. This could include, Passport Assessment, Health Assessment and Social Worker assessment.

### **What if the panel receives an assessment that is insufficient to help them make a decision?**

In this instance the person who has completed it may be asked to undertake some further work, before it is brought to panel. If required a professional will be offered guidance regarding this by Early Help Advisors.

### **Why is an additional referral form required?**

The referral form helps the panel understand what is required. Whether that is identifying a solution for an Early Help need or ensuring that the most appropriate service is involved.

### **Does the referrer have to attend the Early Help and Resource Panel meeting?**

It will not always be necessary for the referrer to attend the meeting as they will receive timely and appropriate feedback afterwards. However, if they wish to attend to present their referral and be part of the discussion relating to it they can contact the Early Help admin team and book a time to attend.

### **Will the referrer receive feedback from the panel meeting?**

The outcome of the meeting will be recorded on the referral form and a copy will be returned to the referrer after the meeting.

### **How often do the meetings take place?**

Meetings are currently happening every two weeks on Thursday mornings. The frequency of meetings will be reviewed and may be adjusted in response to need.

### **What if the service required is not provided by an agency represented on the panel?**

The panel will provide guidance about what type of support would be appropriate and information about which other services are available locally to meet these needs including how they can be accessed.