



### **Step Up to Children's Social Care/ Step Down to Early Help**

The interface between Early Help services and Children Social Care is an essential component of a robust service for children and families ensuring they receive the right help and support at the right time.

The pathways between these two approaches are key to ensuring all children are safe, wherever they are within the levels of need.

Effective sharing of information between professionals is essential for effective identification, assessment and service provision.

The step up/step down flowcharts detail what is required of social workers and the Early Help multiagency workforce. It includes all partners who may be involved in Early Help. It covers the levels of need from Early Help to children in need of protection.

If there are immediate safeguarding concerns, then the agency safeguarding procedures would be followed. Safeguarding concerns should be discussed with manager/safeguarding lead in the first instance.

If concerns remain and with consent from parents/carers, then MASH to be contacted for advice and guidance. Discussion will be held with MASH social worker which considers the presenting issues and concerns, any relevant historical information and previous offer of early help.

The social worker will provide advice/guidance and support to enable the practitioner to appropriately address the concerns and provide support as required. Agreement will be reached in regards to next steps, threshold of need and intervention required.