



Early Help Strategy

Gloucestershire
2025-28



Foreword

Right child right support right time every time

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Working together to offer help and support from the earliest point is the foundation of a highly functioning system for children and families. We are pleased to see that emerging national policy places early help, now increasingly referred to as 'family help', at the centre of its developments.

The past several years has seen the publication of a number of reviews^{1*} and subsequently policy documents², statutory guidance³ and, in December 2024, the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill⁴ which will transform the children's social care system in England and Wales, shaping its future for years to come.

From April 2025, Gloucestershire, like most other local authorities, will enter the design and early implementation phase of that transformation. The Families First Partnership Programme⁵ is the national programme that will support local areas to bring these various documents to life. Done right, co-produced with children and families, developed with partners, it will enable us to achieve the ambitions of this strategy and deliver the priorities of our partnership's One Plan for all Children and Young People in Gloucestershire 2024-2030⁶ more effectively.

The need to support families from the earliest point is our priority. We want families to be leaders in developing and implementing a plan that will work for them. That means understanding the child and family within the context of their lives and working with the whole family to affect the changes they wish to see for themselves and their children.

Gloucestershire has a rich tradition of early help/ family help that makes a difference for families, delivered by a range of agencies across the statutory, voluntary, faith and commercial sectors.

* For references, please see page 23.

The impact of this work has been commented on positively by Ofsted in our most recent full inspection (2022) and Joint Targeted Area Inspection (2023). That gives us a great basis from which to continue to develop. Effective early/family help is not delivered by a single service or team, rather it is a shared approach that all local partners and stakeholders can put into practice. We all have an important part to play in helping children and families to thrive.

This Early Help Strategy does not prescribe how agencies should support families, rather it provides a set of principles and a framework within which to work that aims to ensure we maximise the input of all local partners. This should ensure that children and young people get the help and support they need, when they need it. Central to this is the voice, participation and importance we ascribe to partnering with the child and their family as experts in their own lives and architects of their own solutions. This is an approach that is strengths based and recognises that every family has much to offer.

This strategy does therefore herald a change in the way we will work together. It is a necessity,

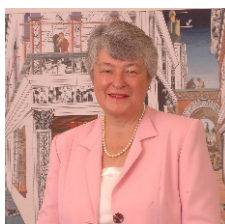
but we recognise that it takes place against an extremely challenging operational landscape, with families and services facing considerable strain as we work to respond to the current socio-economic challenges and recover from the legacy of covid. Our assessment is that these factors are not likely to ease in the short term, placing a further imperative on the need to continue to develop our approach.

The delivery of this strategy will be overseen by the Children's Wellbeing Coalition, reporting in turn to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The actions within speak to those of Gloucestershire's One Plan and will undergo further iterations as the county develops its response to the Families First Partnership Programme. Ongoing engagement and, co-production with children and families, professionals and services will be a central feature of our approach throughout this year of development.

Thank you for your contribution to promoting and ensuring the success of our early/family help offer and we look forward to working with you on this vital agenda.



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Purpose of this strategy

This strategy will:

- 1]** Explain what we mean by Early Help in Gloucestershire
- 2]** Share the values that underpin the development and delivery of services
- 3]** Set out Gloucestershire's ambition for the impact of Early Help
- 4]** Outline how we will know we are making a difference: our success criteria evidenced by an effective performance monitoring
- 5]** Provide an ambition for partnership working and shared accountability to meet whole child/family needs

What you can expect from the Early Help Offer

Children and young people



- To feel heard and feel able to influence the planning of your support
- To feel safe, valued and respected
- To be seen as an individual free from discrimination
- To be supported to navigate services and only have to tell your story once
- To be at the centre of all decisions

Parents, carers and families



- To be seen as an individual free from discrimination
- For the diverse needs of all family members to be heard and recognised
- To be encouraged and empowered to lead on the support you receive
- To be seen within your community context
- For your past and present experiences to be understood and the impact of these explored and supported

Professionals and organisations



- Professionals and organisations will be clear on their role and responsibilities within the Early Help offer for Gloucestershire
- Professionals will have a clear understanding of the shared vision and aims within the offer and will work together and hold each other to account to achieve the best outcomes for the families within our communities

Shared values and behaviours

As a partnership we have agreed the following common set of values and behaviours in implementing our strategy:

Collaboration

Involving children, young people, parents, carers, adults and families: in what happens and understanding their experience of our systems and support.

Professional curiosity

With each other as providers, and with children, young people, families, adults, and carers to understand the reason behind behaviours.

Kindness and compassion

Our interactions with one another will demonstrate kindness and compassion creating safe spaces for people to reflect and make change

Challenge

We will be restorative in our challenge to one another to ensure the best outcomes for children and families

Open and flexible

To new approaches and opportunities when working in the best interest of children and families.



What is Early Help and Intervention?

Early Help is the term used to refer to support that is offered to children, young people and families when needs emerge or to reduce / prevent problems developing in the future. The support can be offered at any time throughout the child or young person's life, this can be from the point of conception through to the teenage years, to help things get better or reduce the need for statutory interventions.

'Early intervention' describes additional targeted support for children, young people, families and communities who have been identified as needing some extra help to achieve good outcomes or where needs are complex and multifaceted and agencies need to work together

Early Help is not a service but a way of thinking and working through a collaborative partnership approach between services, families, and communities. It is all of our responsibilities to listen to the needs of our families and communities to work closely together to ensure they get the right support at the right time.

The vast majority of children, young people and families will live happy productive lives requiring access only to universal services available throughout all our communities, some however will for a whole range of reasons experience difficulties in their lives that will require a more targeted level of support. A small number will require the support of statutory or specialist interventions.

Early Help approaches are, by their nature enabling, strengths-based interventions providing children, young people, families, and communities with the tools they require to succeed.

Central to the Early Help approach in Gloucestershire is the [Graduated Pathway](#) which lays out a tiered approach to early

intervention support. It supports the early identification of need and helps to promote an early response to avoid or minimise the risk of escalating difficulties.

Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities will have equal access to the Early Help offer alongside the more specialist services they may require. The SEND and Inclusion strategies should be read alongside this strategy.

Early Help and Early intervention are two terms that are used in different ways throughout services and are often used interchangeably it is however important to understand the differences to be clear of the support offer at each stage.

Early Help and Early Intervention

Early Help Level 1,2,3

Early Intervention (Targeted Support) Level 3,4

Preventing the occurrence of needs/risks

At this **universal** level interventions are aimed at addressing the whole population to prevent risk factors developing.

Agencies promote and maintain independence, support good health and wellbeing through high-quality awareness raising and information and advice programmes to develop self-help behaviours.

Agencies build resilience across the population by helping communities to build capacity, empowering and enabling them to support themselves.

Level 1 Universal

Preventing needs/risks escalation

At this level agencies will intervene early and provide **targeted** support for those with existing or emerging risk factors, vulnerabilities or additional needs to ensure that problems, specific conditions, events or behaviours are addressed and prevented from being more significant or entrenched.

Level 2 Additional

Level 3 Intensive

Reducing the severity of needs/risks

At this level agencies work alongside with and support people who are experiencing more complex problems to reduce the severity and prevent, reduce or delay the need for subsequent specialist/statutory services involvement.

Agencies may also support families at this level who are stepping down or in receipt of support from specialist/statutory service involvement to help sustain improvements and reduce the likelihood of risks re-emerging.

Level 4 Specialist

A child with no identified additional needs or needs that can be met by a single agency.

My Profile (or similar)

The child's needs can be met through your agency working jointly with another agency.

My Plan

The child's needs are more complex and require an assessment to understand the range, depth or significance of the needs which may require a more intensive response.

My Plan + (including a My Assessment)

The child's needs are complex and enduring and a statutory response is required. For example, Education Health and Care Plan.

Child in Need Plan, Child Protection Plan

Early Help - Graduated Pathway

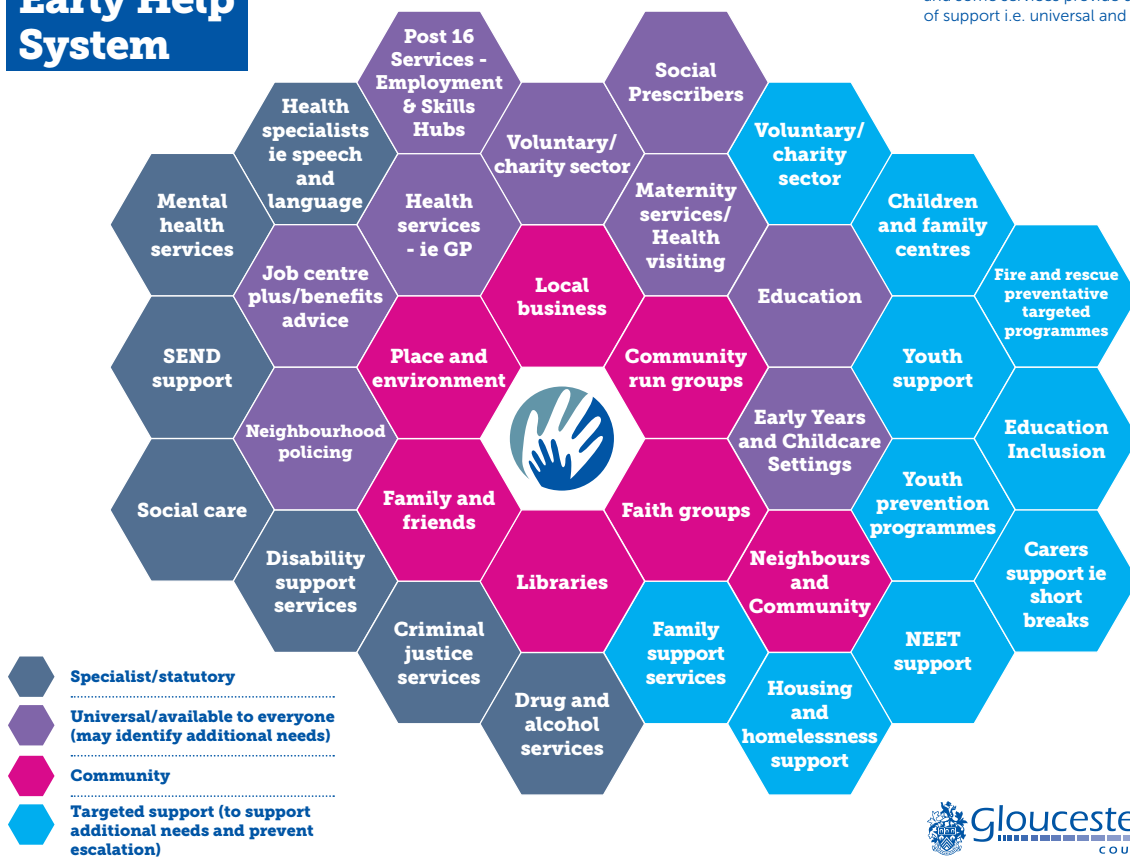
Who are we talking about when we say 'Early Help'

Early Help is everybody's responsibility, in order to enable children, young people, families and communities to thrive we need to work together to support each other and focus on ensuring the most vulnerable receive the right support at the right time and are not left behind.

Across Gloucestershire's Early Help system we view Early Help through a model which identifies four types of provision:

Early Help System

Please note this is not an exhaustive list and some services provide differing levels of support i.e. universal and targeted.



Why is Early Help important?

National Context

The case for effective services delivering Prevention and Early Help is well documented throughout research papers, policy and literature (listed in Appendix)

The statutory basis for Early Help:

'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023' sets out the statutory guidance for Local Authorities and their Partners. Chapter 1 paragraphs 1 to 16 set out the statutory guidance in relation to:

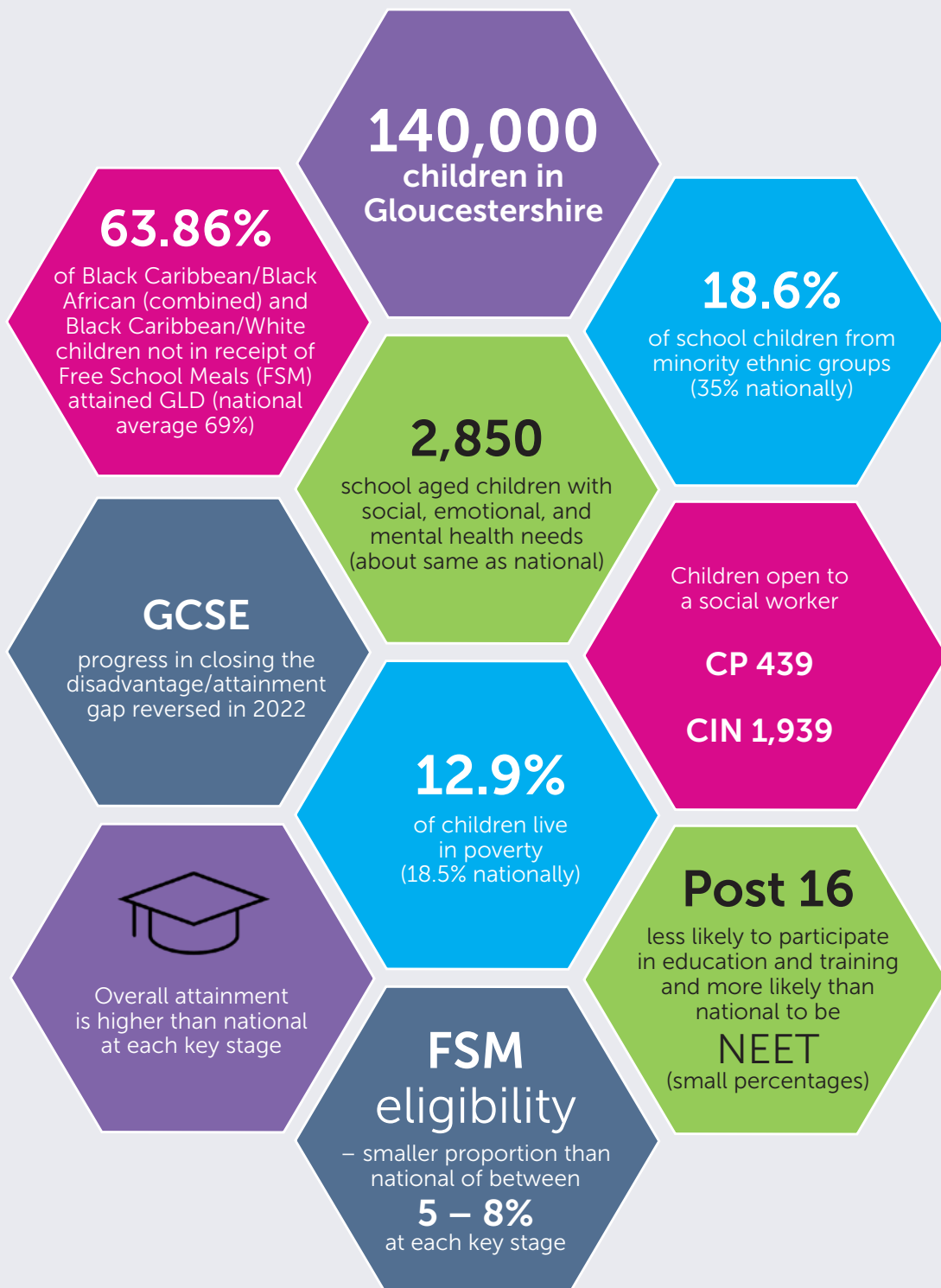
- Identifying children and families who would benefit from Early Help
- Effective assessment of the need for Early Help
- Provision of effective Early Help Services
- Accessing Help and Services.

The many published reports in this area promote Early Help and Early Interventions as a way of working with children, young people and families, offering them support at the earliest opportunity to build their resilience and increase their ability to manage challenging circumstances giving children the best start in life and preventing problems from developing.

This approach offers children, young people, and families more than just a solution to a specific problem; it offers them help to develop the skills needed to deal with a similar problem if it arises in future. A clear message emerges from the national drivers: early help and support is fundamental to delivering improved outcomes and reducing inequalities for children, young people, and their families.

The national reviews make a strong, evidence-based case for early help services, demonstrating that no agency can provide this support alone and that greater co-ordination and joint working across and within agencies is required. A shared strategic approach will ensure partners remain focused on the potential for prevention and early help to improve outcomes for all parties in the long term.

Local Context



Emerging Themes

From the above understanding of the current picture both nationally and in Gloucestershire we understand the experience of many children and families in Gloucestershire include:

- 1]** Increase in non-attendance at school across primary, secondary and specialist settings
- 2]** Crime rates in urban areas remain high
- 3]** Gaps in service in rural areas are impacting on families opportunities to engage in support
- 4]** Rising demand at statutory levels for SEND support services
- 5]** Parents are experiencing increased stress and reduced community networks resulting in reduction in parental resilience
- 6]** Black and Ethnic Minority children and young people are disproportionately represented within support services. (e.g. in non-achievement of good level of development (GLD) at entry to KS1 and high representation in the youth justice)

Underpinning these emerging themes, we see from our requests for support across the partnership that children and families are often requiring support with;

- Parenting Support
- Domestic Abuse
- Child Mental Health
- Adult Mental Health
- Physical Abuse

The approach planned through this strategy's priorities and principles is aimed at improving practice on a system wide level, that will not only impact practice currently provided to families but also the culture across services.

It is believed that this approach will in turn influencing the above 6 emerging themes that have been identified through data and will support families to create positive change in their life experiences.

The priorities and principles below aim to set out our shared approach to responding to family's needs and will underpin the implementation of this strategy.



Early Help Principles and Priorities

We believe Early Help services in Gloucestershire should....

Use an evidence-informed approach

To achieve this, we will **Ensure** that data is used alongside strong local knowledge and up to date research

Have a shared method for understanding and meeting the needs of children and families

To achieve this, we will **Use** a consistent method of assessing and meeting the needs of children and families

Have shared standards of success

To achieve this, we will **Develop** shared methods for measuring the impact of our work across Early Help

Work in partnership as a single system

To achieve this, we will **Continue** to in our endeavour to develop a single system that works together to drive the development of the Early Help support

Value our workforce through providing quality training and support

To achieve this, we will **Collaborate** in developing the training and support for our services

Put families at the heart of what we do

To achieve this, we will **Ensure** that families and communities have a voice to influence change and that their life experiences, beliefs, and cultures are valued and respected

Have a collective commitment that whole family working is the responsibility of everyone who works with children and families

Work with communities to strengthen and support them

To achieve this, we will **Work** in a way that recognises that family, friends, and community can be the most effective and sustainable forces of 'help'

Ensure that children and families receive the right support at the right time

To achieve this, we will **Ensure** that all children to have access to a suitable education

Work to support families at the earliest point



Our Approach

What we believe	What we will do and how we will do it
<p>We believe using an evidence-informed approach will provide more robust and effective support to families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will ensure that data is used alongside strong local knowledge to plan the use of resources, inform service delivery and identify families most in need. • As a collective we will agree the factors influencing a child/family in need and share information in a timely way across agencies within a robust and safe framework – in turn this will avoid the need for repetitive assessment. • We will deliver evidence-based and research-informed services across our agencies and communities that are focused on outcomes, promote innovative practice, and learn from what works. • We will continuously strive to improve learning across the sector through monitoring, reviewing, and evaluating the way we work. • We will use data to identify inequality in provision and disparities in outcomes, this will help us to plan support for those most likely to need it to achieve outcomes comparable to their peers. • We will collate data to evidence the impact of interventions and use this to identify strengths and gaps in service provision across the county. We will share this information with all partners and communities to promote equitable provision and work to address inequalities throughout the county.
<p>We believe having a shared method for understanding and meeting the needs of children and families enables families to participate more fully in the support they receive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families and professionals across Early Help will use a consistent method of assessing and meeting the needs of children and families. • We will use The Graduated Pathway of Early Help and Targeted Support as our approach to understanding and meeting the needs of all children, young people, and families at the earliest opportunity.

Our Approach

What we believe	What we will do and how we will do it
<p>We believe having shared standards of success provides greater accountability to families and enables us to share and improve on practice together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will have shared methods for measuring the impact of our work across Early Help • For families being supported by Early Help Services we will develop a flexible distance travelled tool to measure and monitor impact for families. • Across services where whole family targeted interventions are being provided we will ensure we have outcomes frameworks in place to understand impact of service • We will involve children and families in sharing their experiences of services and planning future developments to ensure their voices are heard and listened to
<p>We believe working in partnership as a single system will allow us to develop a workforce that fully understands and appreciates the importance of everyone's role in Early Help</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to work towards a single system that supports multi agency partners to work together to drive the development of the Early Help support available to families across Gloucestershire. • We will ensure our Early Help training offer is developed in partnership and is available to all those that provide services and support to children and families in Gloucestershire. • We will understand, acknowledge, and value the roles of all agencies involved in supporting children/families. • We will ensure that the range of Universal and Targeted support available across the county is accessible to and meets the needs of all communities.

Our Approach

What we believe	What we will do and how we will do it
We believe that valuing our workforce through providing quality training and support will ensure that support to families is delivered by an engaged, knowledgeable, and committed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that Families and Communities have a voice, that they feel empowered to influence change and that their life experiences, beliefs, and cultures are valued and respected. Family led decision making will be at the heart of all our practices across all partner agencies. We will collate and respond to family and community feedback.
We believe putting families at the heart of what we do delivers more effective services and creates personal empowerment that enables sustainment of positive change for families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will have a collective commitment that whole family working is the responsibility of everyone who works with children and families All Early Help services will consider all family members needs when working with families and seek to understand and respond to these through multi-agency plans at the earliest point, intervening proportionately . Services will consider whole family's needs and ensure that there is a comprehensive multi-agency plan in place that meets those needs.
We believe working with communities to strengthen and support them is the most effective way to create lasting change for families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that we work in a way that recognises that family, friends, and community can be the most effective and sustainable forces of 'help' We will work together to ensure that services are at the heart of their communities, responding to local need where it arises. We will work together to create stronger links between families, community services and statutory services.

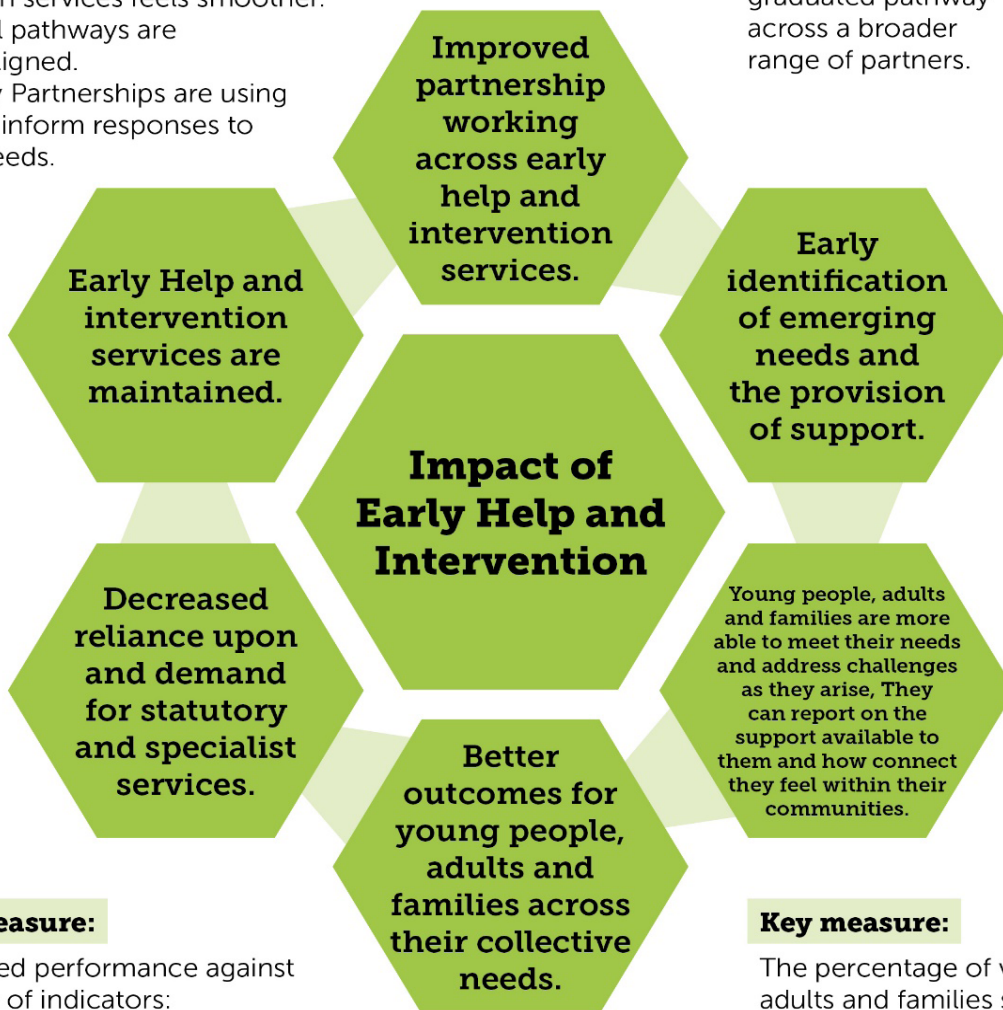
Our Approach

What we believe	What we will do and how we will do it
We believe ensuring that children and families receive the right support at the right time is central to providing effective early help and intervention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will ensure that all children to have access to a suitable education and childcare.• We will seek to ensure that children and families receive good quality support at times of transition of education or Early Years provision.• We will work collectively to ensure all children have access to education and childcare that promotes inclusion, supports positive outcomes and reduce inequalities and reduce exclusions.• We will ensure that additional advice and support is accessible where needed to support inclusion, developmental progress and good learning and play opportunities.• We will work to support families at the earliest point, to drive down demand for statutory service intervention• We will foster a 'no wrong door' approach and work together collectively to try to reduce families being passed around a system.• Services will work collaboratively to ensure needs within families and wider communities are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity, pooling resources where needed.• We will improve the experience of families at entry points into services to ensure that the right information about families is provided to services as swiftly as possible in order that families do not have to tell their stories multiple times.• Strengthening universal support and early intervention in the early years to reduce inequalities.• We will work with families at the earliest point, moving to a Family Hubs approach that brings together partners across the system to be there when families need them from conception to independence.

How do we know that we've made a difference?

Key measures:

Families report that navigating between services feels smoother. Referral pathways are more aligned. Locality Partnerships are using data to inform responses to local needs.



Key measure:

Increased use of the graduated pathway across a broader range of partners.

Key measure:

Improved performance against a range of indicators:

- reduced demand for high cost specialist.
- reduced proportion of children in need.
- improved attendance rates and reduced exclusion rates.
- reduced number of children in care.

Key measure:

The percentage of vulnerable adults and families supported by early help services achieving positive outcomes. Improved use of the Glos Family directory. Development of community networks.

Appendix

The importance of Early Help in enabling children and families to reach their full potential has been set out in a number of Government reports published nationally to improve our understanding and inform service developments when working with children and their families.

- Fair Society, Healthy Lives (The Marmot Review, 2010)
- The Foundation Years: Preventing poor children becoming poor adults (Frank Fields, 2010)
- Early Intervention: The Next Steps (Graham Allen MP, 2011)
- The Munro Review of Child Protection: A Child Centred System (Professor Eileen Munro, May 2011)
- The Early Years: Foundations for life, health and learning (Tickell Review, 2011)

And more recently:

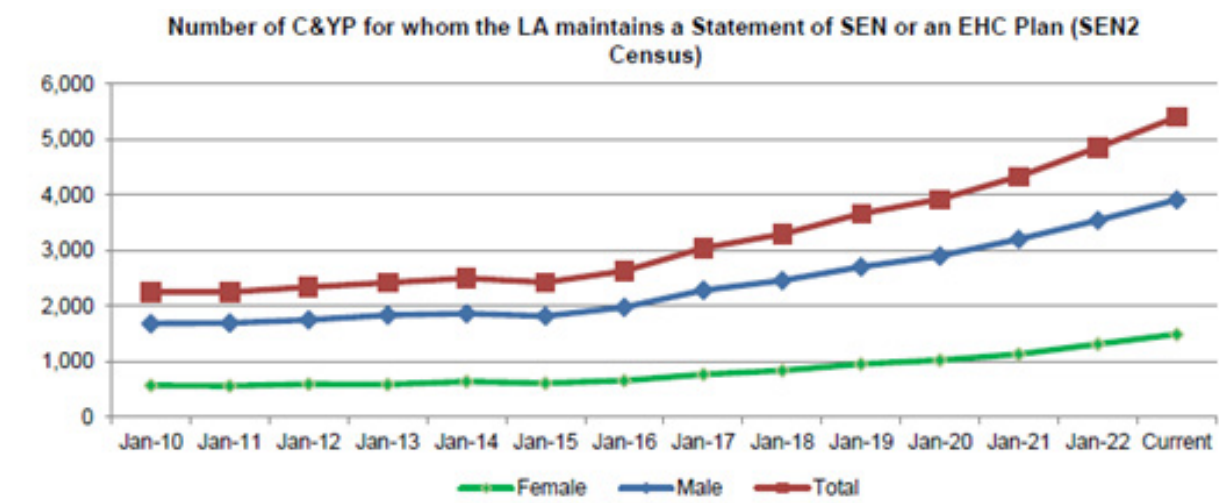
- Too little too late: early help and early intervention spending in England (Action for Children, 2022)
- What is Early Help? Concepts, policy directs and multi-agency perspectives (Research in Practice 2022)
- The Case for Change: The independent review of children's social care June 2021.

Local Context – continued

Early Years, Education and Employment

0-25 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

- The number of children and young people (aged 0-25) with an EHCP continues to increase. There were 5400 children and young people with an EHCP as at the start of the reporting month compared to 4,854 as at January 2022.



- Levels of attendance in Gloucestershire are very good. They have historically been better than the national picture
- Gloucestershire's children's attainment of Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of EYFS;
- 71% children attained GLD which is in line with the national average
- 54% of children receiving FSM attained GLD (national average 57%)
- 43.86% of Black Caribbean and Black Caribbean/White children in receipt of FSM attained GLD (national average of 62%)
- The gap between children in receipt of FSM who attain GLD and those who are not in receipt of FSM is 22.4%, compared with a national average of 18.4%.
- The gap between Black Caribbean and Black African (combined) and white children who attain GLD is 14% compared with a national average of 4%

Early Years

- Gloucestershire has 683 Early Years settings across the county offering 15,330 places.
- 90.9% of these Early Years settings are rated good or outstanding.

Social Care, Health, Deprivation & Poverty and Early Help

Per 10k:

- Rate of social care assessment 690 (482 statistical neighbour average)
- Rate of CIN: 261 (287 statistical neighbours)
- Children subject to child protection enquiries: 256 (168 statistical neighbour average)

- Children with a child protection plan: 44 (36 statistical neighbour average)
- Children in care: 67 (60 statistical neighbour average)
- 870 children in care
- 500 care leavers (54% are in EET and 93 are suitably housed)

Deprivation and Child Poverty

- Gloucestershire is amongst the least deprived 20% of local authorities in England and ranks as the 126th most deprived of the 151 Upper Tier Local Authorities in England.
- However, twelve LSOA areas in Gloucestershire fall in the most deprived 10% nationally and account for 19,415 people (3.1% of the county population).
- Nine of these neighbourhoods are in Gloucester, two in Cheltenham and one in the Forest of Dean.
- At district level, only Gloucester and the Forest of Dean have above average levels of deprivation compared with England as a whole, but neither are in the 40% most deprived districts

Early Help

- The Family Support service works with between 4500 and 5000 children per year with the areas receiving the highest levels of support being Gloucester (26.2%) the Forest of Dean (18.7%) and Cheltenham (15.7%) which broadly correlates with the deprivation and child poverty figures for the county.
- However it can be seen that Tewksbury (14.3%), Stroud (12.6%) and Cotswolds (10.9%) also see significant levels of referrals for family support.

Appendix

Mental and Emotional Health

- England rate mental health issues in children and young people can be found on NHS Digital, 6-16 year olds 11.6 per 100, 17-19 year olds 17.4 per 100. Extrapolated to the Gloucestershire population from the 2021 census this equates to 9,342 children 6-16 and 3,573 young people 17-19 a total of 12,915.
- In the 2022 PWS the rate of pupils with low mental wellbeing - 26 per 100 (using WEMWBS categorisation and aligning with NHS probable clinical anxiety or depression) extrapolated equates to 20,993 children and young people with low mental wellbeing (age 8-18 as this is the age range of the survey).
- In the PWS 2022 24.7% of secondary and FE pupils reported ever self-harming, extrapolated this equates to 14,387 young people aged 11-18. 13.3% reported regularly self-harming (monthly, weekly or daily) 7,747 if extrapolated to 11-18 year olds.
- Inpatient admissions for mental health can be found on Fingertips, the England rate in 2021/22 for under 18 year olds was 87.5 per 100,000, in Gloucestershire this was significantly higher at 138.9 per 100,000.

- Similarly the admission rate for self-harm aged 10-24 (421.9 Eng. vs. 524.2 Gloucs) is also on Fingertips the England rate in 2021/22 for 10-14 year olds was 213.0 vs. 335.6 in Gloucestershire; the England rate in 2021/22 for 15-19 year olds was 652.6 vs. 794.8 in Gloucestershire; the England rate in 2021/22 for 20-24 year olds was 401.8 vs. 451.0 in Gloucestershire.
- Local rates of self-harm in Gloucestershire are significantly higher than the England average but in line with the regional average.

Employment

- Unemployment rates as of Nov 22 across Gloucestershire stand at 2.2% with the UK at 3.6%

Looking at the individual district the data reads as below:

Chelt- 2.4%	Forest 2.4%	Stroud 1.6%
Cots 1.7%	Glos 3.2%	Tewks 1.9%

- The main barriers for parents in accessing employment include the impact of being a semi-rural county where public transport is a barrier for those seeking work outside of their local area.
- Cost of and access to childcare also remain an issue for many families.

Police, Youth Offending and Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse

- During 2020/21, domestic abuse accounted for 14% of all crime recorded by Gloucestershire police, a slight increase from the year prior. When considering the rate of domestic abuse crimes in Gloucestershire, this has increased from 5.08 DA crimes per 1000 of the population in 2017/18 to 8.60 in 2019/20.

Young Offenders

National measures for youth offending are; Numbers of First Time Entrants, Reoffending rates and Custody rates.

First Time Entrants (FTE)

- Gloucestershire; 83 per 100,000
- Southwest; 143 per 100,000
- National; 143 per 100,000
- YJS family; 120 per 100,000
- Violence against the person continues to feature for offences creating first time entrants in Gloucestershire. FTE rates in Gloucestershire are lower than the SW, national and equivalent YJS areas (YJS family) rates and remain broadly similar to previous years.

Reoffending rates

- Reoffending rate Gloucestershire; 29.4%
- Southwest; 30.1%
- National; 29.2%
- YJS family; 27.2%

In Gloucestershire reoffending rates are higher than the national and equivalent YJS areas (YJS family) rates and lower than the SW rates. Which makes reoffending an area of focus for our YJS in Gloucestershire with a specific focus on the number of reoffences committed by a small group of young people.

Custody rates

- Gloucestershire custody rates; 0.03 per 1000 (3 young people)
- Southwest custody rates; 0.04 per 1000
- National custody rates; 0.11 per 1000
- YJS family custody rates; 0.06 per 1000

Custody sentences in Gloucestershire remain low and are lower than the SW, National and YJS family rates.

Local Policing

- Across Gloucestershire during January-September 2021 31,536 crimes were reported, seeing an increase of 2293 incidents from the previous year's data. Alongside this there were 32,590 reports of anti-social behaviour, seeing an increase of 14,286 incidents from the previous years reporting. Data taken from the Police and Crime prevention plan Police and Crime Plan Priorities - Gloucestershire's Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk)

Appendix

Youth Justice

In terms of ethnicity, 50% of the children serving custodial sentences identify as White & Black Caribbean. The Youth Justice Annual Statistics: 2022 to 2023 identify that the proportion of children from a mixed ethnic background within the youth custody population has increased from 9% to 15% over the last 10 years.

Racial Disparity within Gloucestershire YJS:
Oversight and scrutiny of racial disparity within the YJS has been a focus for 2023/24

as Gloucestershire YJS has continued to show an increase in children from ethnically diverse backgrounds within the offending cohort. The latest data reported to the YJMB continued to see children from a mixed background significantly overrepresented within Gloucestershire when compared with the South-West region, and England & Wales, as well as the latest 10-17 mid 2021 Gloucestershire population by ethnicity (below)

April-December 2023 Offending Population:

April-December 2023 Offending Population:	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Chinese or Other	Ethnic Minorities (excluding white minorities)
Gloucestershire	73%	16%	0%	11%	0%	27%
South-West	85%	8%	1%	4%	1%	14%
England & Wales	70%	10%	5%	11%	2%	27%
10-17 mid 2021 Gloucestershire population by ethnicity (latest available)	88%	5%	4%	2%	1%	12%

References

- ¹ March 2022 [Children's social care market study final report - GOV.UK](#)
May 2022 [National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson - GOV.UK](#)
May 2022 [Independent review of children's social care - GOV.UK](#)
- ² February 2023 [Children's social care stable homes built on love consultation](#)
September 2023 [Children's social care: stable homes, built on love - GOV.UK](#)
December 2023 [Championing kinship care: national kinship care strategy - GOV.UK](#)
November 2024 [Keeping children safe, helping families thrive - GOV.UK](#)
- ³ December 2023 [Children's social care: national framework - GOV.UK](#)
December 2023 [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](#)
October 2024 [Kinship care: framework for local authorities - GOV.UK](#)
- ⁴ December 2024 [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill 2024-25 - House of Commons Library](#)
- ⁵ March 2025 [Families First Partnership programme - GOV.UK](#)
- ⁶ November 2024 [One Plan for children and young people in Gloucestershire 2024-2030 | Gloucestershire County Council](#)



A multi-agency co-production with **Early Help** and **Targeted Support**.

April 2025