#### **EARLY HELP GOOD PRACTICE WHEN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CROSS BORDERS**

AMENDMENT

In December 2019, this chapter was revised throughout in line with local practice.

### **Purpose**

* To provide all practitioners with recommended good practice and minimum standards concerning the sharing of Early Help and working across areas boundaries.
* To ensure a seamless transition of integrated support to children and their families when they move to a different area, or receive services across area boundaries.

**Principles**

* Early Help and support should be provided to children and families regardless of where they live. This practice guide should be used:-
  + When a child/family lives in one authority, but receives services from neighbouring authorities.
  + When a child/family moves from one authority to another.
* Consent to share information when supporting children and their families at the Early Help threshold is paramount. The Lead Professional will ensure consent has been obtained from the child (where appropriate) and from other family members, including parents and carers; it should be agreed in advance what information is to be shared and with whom. Information will be shared proportionately with the named services/individuals in the area the child and family are moving to in accordance with national Information Sharing Guidance and local procedures.
* Solutions to cross border sharing of Early Help should always be child/young person centred and needs led.
* North West authorities and services will accept Early Help information in the agreed format used by the originating authority; services transferring information must ensure that all demographic and contact information is included and up to date.

**Practice Points**

**If the child lives in an area that is different from the area where the Lead Professional is located and receives services across area boundaries –** the child’s needs are central. The child should access support from appropriate services on a case by case basis. Early Help data will be recorded in the area where the child is ordinarily resident. If child has split residence the information should be stored by each area. Where needed, Lead Professionals should access advice and support from the Early Help Co-ordinator/Lead in their area.

**Child relocates to another local authority area –** the current Lead Professional should send the Early Help assessment and plan to the new Lead Professional in the receiving area, when it is confirmed that the family are relocating. The new Lead Professional should review and update the Early Help assessment and action plan within 4 weeks, and transfer information to their local documentation/systems at this point, following their own local processes. The new Lead Professional should ensure that the Early Help Assessment is recorded in their area.

**Seamless Transition –** wherever possible and to ensure continuous support, a handover meeting with the new Lead Professional will be arranged prior to a child and their family moving.

**Support for the** process - Where it isn’t possible to locate a Lead Professional in the new area, the Early Help Co-ordinator/Lead (in Rochdale Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHASH) 0300 303 0440 [ehash@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:ehash@rochdale.gov.uk)) will provide advice and support the transfer.

For more information on local approaches to Early Help contact your local area:

[Bolton](https://www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/early-help-working-together)

[Bury](https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10814)

[Manchester](https://www.manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co.uk/resource/levels-need-multi-agency-decisions-framework/)

[Oldham](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200253/resources_for_practitioners/969/childrens_workforce_practitioners/2)

[Rochdale](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/children-and-childcare/how-we-deliver-childrens-serv/Pages/eha-for-professionals.aspx)

[Salford](https://www.partnersinsalford.org/earlyhelp)

[Stockport](https://www.stockport.gov.uk/early-help-assessment)

[Tameside](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/cypp/earlyintervention)

[Trafford](https://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/trafford_early_help.pdf)

[Wigan](https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Health-Social-Care/Children-and-young-people/Early-Help.aspx)