

Camden's Early Help services for families



What are Early Help services?

Early Help brings together professionals who will work with your whole family to try to improve things for everyone. Early Help can include support with things like parenting, employment, anti-social behaviour and emotional wellbeing.

Early Help services are for the whole family. They are for families who have children and young people up to the age of 19 and who may need additional support because they are worried about:

- their child's health and development
- their child being a carer for someone
- their child's disability or special educational need
- the effect of domestic abuse, drugs, alcohol or mental health on their family
- their child's behaviour or involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour.

What are the benefits for my family?

- Helping your family EARLY, before things get worse and more difficult to change, has been shown to be more effective
- You are involved in all parts of the Early Help process and we will listen to you
- Building resilience with your family is important to maintain your family's wellbeing
- You will have a lead worker and a single family plan so you do not have to repeat your information to lots of different workers
- Having a team of professionals working with your family ensures you receive the most appropriate help to meet your needs.



**Resilience is the capacity to
'bounce back'**

How do Early Help services work?

Step 1: How do I get Early Help?

Talk to a professional who knows your family already. This could be someone at school, a health visitor, youth, children's centre or other support worker you are in contact with.

This person will be able to talk to you about what additional help you may need and help you find the right support.

Step 2: Listening to you

The worker will meet with you to find out what your family concerns may be and how best to help you.

They might just point you to the right services for your family. However, if it is a bit more complicated, they can complete an Early Help assessment. This helps them to understand more about what your family needs and which professionals and services can work together to help and support you.

Step 3: Your family's plan

Depending on how things go at step 2, we may invite you to a meeting, called a 'team around the family' meeting (TAF). This meeting is with professionals who can support your family.

At this meeting you will talk with these workers to decide what people will do and when they will do it. At this meeting a lead worker will be identified who will be the main person to contact you, listen to you and help you.

Step 4: Reviewing the family plan

On a date agreed with your family a review meeting will be held. At this meeting you will review your family plan and discuss with the workers what is working well and what may need to change.

Support will continue with your family until an agreed time when your family no longer needs Early Help services and you feel resilient enough to find your own solutions with your family.

Can I say NO?

It is always your choice to work with Early Help services.
You do not have to accept an Early Help service offer.

Sharing Information about my family

There may be times when the workers in your 'team around the family' may need to share information to make sure you get the right help and support.

This is all explained in the Early Help Information Sharing leaflet, which you can download at camden.gov.uk/earlyhelp



Find out more: camden.gov.uk/earlyhelp
or contact the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH)
on **020 7974 3317**