

Children's Early Help & Prevention Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group – 11th April 2024

Current Activity

Communications

Work is being developed in the Early Response Hub to create videos that explain the concepts that underpin Early Help making it accessible to parents and families who may use Early Help Services.

Universal Offer

Public Health outlined the Health Visiting offer and their role in Early Help, especially using their reach in the first few months to identify families early to support them. There was a discussion about the contract and the footprint that covers West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham and the consequent scope to flex the provision locally.

Exclusion / Suspension and links to Early Help

The meeting received a presentation about the levels of school suspension and permanent exclusion and considered if this was an indicator that the family may need early help support. The rate of suspension has increased compared to the last year and is well above the statistical neighbours. It was recognised that attendance and engagement at school is a protective and positive factor therefore reducing suspension and exclusion has a positive effect. The Early Response Hub reflected on the correlation between suspension and referral rates – further work in this space is taking place.

Digital Referral Form

The digital referral form has now been extended from the original twelve agencies to all referrals into the Early Response Hub. There have been modifications to the form following feedback. It has been noted that there has been an increase in self-referrals following the introduction of the digital form.

Youth Offer Self-Assessment

We have been asked by the Culture, Media and Sport Committee to look at the Youth Offer in West Berkshire, a small tasks and finish group has been created to explore what are young people and families saying they want and need. The group has representation from a variety of different groups including the voluntary sector, statutory groups and providers. Mapping exercises will be done to look at our current provision then any gaps.

Supporting Families

An update was provided from the Supporting Families Operational Group – this noted some challenges with both attaching families and the subsequent Payment by Results process. The parenting provision continues to develop. The Better Together Data Hub continues to be developed with partners in Reading

Future Actions

Youth Work Self-Assessment – mapping exercise of provision

Digital Referral Form – evaluation following wider roll-out

Parenting support – development of courses and communication

Early Help Self-Assessment