

# The Early Help Assessment (EHA)

## Support for young people in Somerset

Early help and SEND support is everyone's responsibility



## What is an Early Help Assessment (EHA)?



Sometimes, we all benefit from support to make things better in our life.



This support may come from family members, friends, or people (practitioners) who work for organisations such as the Local Authority, GP, school/college.



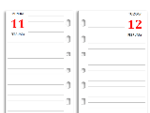
An EHA is the way support from practitioners is requested, and arranged, in Somerset.

- The EHA begins with a conversation between you and the person who gave you this leaflet.
- The conversation looks at different areas of life for you and your family.
- You can talk about how things are going for you with home, housing, work or gaining employment, health, school, college any social or community issues.
- The conversation will highlight what you feel is working well and what you feel could be better.
- It helps to understand what the most important issues to you are.
- After your conversation, you and the worker will be able to agree whether you just need some more information or advice, or if you need a bit more.

## Keeping track of how things are going for you



If a number of different agencies are needed to help you to make things better, then regular meetings are held with you and them.



This should happen on days and times to suit you and your family.

This brings down the number of different appointments or phone conversations you might otherwise need to have. The meetings are usually called 'Team around the Child' or 'Team around the Family' meetings.



It is important that you know agencies working with you are making things better. The person who has the initial conversation with you, or leads any meetings, will look to make sure the following things happen. This will be your 'lead practitioner' and the person you always contact.



You will be given a copy of your assessment and/or action plan.

## Your permission (consent/agreement)



We need your permission (consent/agreement) to provide the support and to share your information with Somerset County Council and other agencies. This will help them work together and to improve things for you. You will be asked at the beginning of the EHA if you give your consent/agreement.



You may have a conversation with a worker, who suggests using the Early Help Assessment form to record information. This only happens with your agreement and provides a record of who has agreed to do what and by when.



Each agency providing a service to you is responsible for keeping your personal information secure and up to date. Information about you is protected by law and must be treated carefully. You have the right to ask the agency supporting you what information they have and what they are using it for.

### More information



Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224



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[www.somersetchoices.org.uk](http://www.somersetchoices.org.uk)