

Early Help Advisors and the Early Help Development Team – supporting schools

Hopefully by now, most colleagues in schools are familiar with the Transition Team. This team was put in place for 3 years following the Early Help Review in 2019 to support partner agencies with developing and delivering their own early help interventions to children, and to *transition* from the previous model of supporting early help to a new model.

In October 2021, we launched an evaluation of the work of the team and asked partners for their views on the team – and this was a really positive piece of work. There was overwhelming support for the work of the Transition Team – a great deal of feedback came from schools, and you expressed a desire for the Transition Team to remain in place.

Recently, Derbyshire's Cabinet approved plans to extend the team for a further two years to July 2024 and we have now renamed the team to **The Early Help Development Team**.

The priorities for the team for the next two years are as follows:

- Early Help Advisors to continue supporting partner agencies with developing and delivering early help
- Youth and Community Engagement Workers to work with local communities to develop young people led youth forums, and to continue supporting community groups to grow and develop provision for young people.
- Employment and Education Officers to continue supporting young people aged 16-18 with signposting around post-16 provision

The group of workers from the Early Help Development Team that you will have most contact with, in schools, is the Early Help Advisors. I am really keen for the Early Help Advisors to spend as much time as possible in the schools they support and have directed them to offer you the following:

- Regular on-site surgery sessions to discuss any support needs, any cases you are holding that are causing concern or are perhaps not progressing as expected
- Support to convene, and face to face attendance at Team Around the Family meetings
- A blended offer (virtual and face to face) of briefing sessions covering all aspects of Early Help work
- Attending with school staff on home visits when support is required

We're currently recruiting to a number of Early Help Advisor vacancies so will have more staff in post within the next few weeks, and some existing colleagues are moving areas so there may be some new faces for you to meet from the start of term.

If you have any support needs, please contact the following for more information:

For schools in High Peak and North Derbyshire Dales, and Chesterfield localities:

Adam Cope, Early Help Development Officer, adam.cope@derbyshire.gov.uk

For schools in Bolsover / North East Derbyshire and Amber Valley localities:

Debbie Hadley, Early Help Development Officer, debbie.hadley@derbyshire.gov.uk

For schools in Erewash and South Derbyshire / South Derbyshire Dales localities:

Nusrat Sohail, Early Help Development Officer, Nusrat.sohail@derbyshire.gov.uk

Thank you

Chris Caley, Head of Service Early Help

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