

Local Early Help Advisory Boards

Terms of Reference

Version 3- August 2017



ITEM 14

These terms of reference are intended to provide some direction for Local Early Help Advisory Boards recognising they will evolve in slightly different ways but with a core defined purpose. These terms of reference are currently draft and will be agreed by the end of July, following initial meetings of Local Early Help Advisory Boards.

Scope

The scope of the Local Early Help Advisory Board is the local implementation of the early help delivery model.

Purpose

To bring together a partnership in each borough or district invested in developing a coherent local early help offer and manage the successful delivery of this offer. By coming together the partners will hold a collective responsibility for decisions and support the successful delivery of this offer.

Key responsibilities

- Have strategic oversight of the co-ordination and effectiveness of the local early help offer.
- Provide support and challenge to the development of the local early help offer
- Support the development of a joined up local plan which prioritises early help needs and outcomes
- Work collectively with local operational networks to implement a local plan
- Maintain an oversight of the development and effectiveness of the Local Family Partnership
- Support the development of local early help commissioning plans and participate in commissioning processes to deliver a local joined up early help offer
- Work locally to identify gaps in provision regarding early help and to identify and mitigate against risks
- Support the practitioners' networks including co-ordinating training and development opportunities in accordance with local need
- Help capture the voice of families, children and young people
- Communicate with key local stakeholders outside of the meeting to raise awareness of the local early help offer and developments.
- Update the Early Help Transformation Programme Delivery Group via the Strategic Leads for Young People and Families, escalating any risks as required.
- Provide an annual report to the local or joint committee on early help.

Chairman

Each Local Early Help Advisory Board will appoint an appropriate chairman from their membership.

Ways of working

- Meeting agendas will be agreed by the Chairman and the Families Service Manager
- Agendas will be circulated to members of the Local Early Help Advisory Board prior to the meeting
- If it is not possible for a member to attend, they should nominate a substitute representative to attend with delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of their organisation.
- Minutes of this meeting will be kept by the Families Service Manager and agreed by members of the group
- Members will provide updates to the board on actions and key developments in their area

Frequency of Meetings and Venues

Meetings will be held at least quarterly at suitable venues across the borough or district.

Meeting Membership

The membership of boards will vary across boroughs and districts, however there are some core principles for the membership of each board:

- Membership should be as local as possible and key local partners should be represented to ensure they can be consulted with and are involved in making decisions.
- Members need to be able to represent the broad views of the key delivery groups and be able to speak on their behalf about good practice and local need.
- Members need to impact on the establishment and delivery of early help rather than measure accountability
- With any Surrey County Council representation it should be considered whether they are required as a core member or if discussions could take place outside of the meeting (e.g. Families Service representation should be limited to the borough Families Service Manager)
- There should not be more than 15 members to allow for effective discussion and decision making

Representation should consider:

- Borough or district council
- Secondary education
- Primary education
- Children's Centre
- Two elected representatives from the local/joint committee
- Police
- Health
- Job Centre Plus
- Housing
- Voluntary, Community, Faith Sector
- Young people
- Parent groups

This should not be seen as exhaustive

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