We know it is better to provide intense, focussed support when problems first emerge, rather than delivering a more costly statutory intervention when the needs have escalated. The right Early Help services at the right time can reduce or prevent specific problems from getting worse and becoming deep seated or entrenched. Through our Early Help Strategy we aim to improve outcomes for Children and Families in Rotherham and at the same time reduce the demands upon specialist and higher tier services. In Rotherham, most children, young people and family’s needs are met by universal services, or, those services that are available to everyone. For those children and families who face more challenges and may have multiple needs, our Early Help services will provide support and expertise. Building on a One Family, One Worker, One Plan principle our Early Help Assessment, will ensure they receive all the support they require. Our integrated Early Help Teams are based in 9 Locality Teams, across 3 Areas; (North, South and Central) and can provide advice and support for the whole family on issues such as:

- Parenting
- Teenagers
- Behaviour
- Emotional wellbeing
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Domestic Abuse
- Money, Benefits and Housing
- Staying safe – outdoors and online
- And places to go and things to do

**EARLY HELP TEAMS**

**North Team covers:**
- Dalton
- Thrybergh
- Rawmarsh
- Swinton
- Wath

**South Team covers:**
- Maltby
- Wales
- Dinnington
- Aston
- Brinsworth

**Central Team covers:**
- Clifton
- Winterhill
- Wingfield
- Oakwood
- Town Centre

**SWIFT AND EASY ACCESS TO EARLY HELP**

Early Help can be accessed swiftly and easily through the 3 simple routes;

- An Early Help Request for Support Form
  - E form
- Email
  - Internal email address (.gov): ehtriage@rotherham.gov.uk
  - External Secure Address (.gcsx): gcmail-cyps-ehtriage@rotherham.gov.uk
  - Backup Secure address (.cjsm): ehtriage@rotherham.gov.uk.cjsm.net
- Telephone
  - If you need to talk things through, you can also contact the Early Help Triage Team, prior to submitting a Request for Support Form.
    - Telephone discussion: 01709 334905

**ALTERNATIVELY**

- If you feel a child is in immediate danger; contact the police on 999 (in an emergency only)
- If the child is not in immediate danger contact Rotherham Children’s Social Care Services to report your concerns:
  - Call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01709 336080
  - If the child is not in immediate danger, but you believe a crime may have been committed, you can also contact the police on 101
  - If you are contacting Social Care about a child who already has Social Worker involvement please contact them directly for advice if you know who they are.
  - If you are not sure if the child is already known to Children’s Social Care or you do not know who the social worker is, you should contact us by telephone to make a referral about a child or young person. Call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01709 336080
  - Professionals must also complete a MARF to confirm their telephone referrals in writing within 24 hours. You can access the online MARF via the RMBC website.

David McWilliams
Assistant Director, Early Help, Rotherham Children’s Services