

We have produced some advice based on questions partner agencies have asked to support you with your Early Help offers for children and young people in Worcestershire.

Is an Early Help Assessment the same as a referral to Early Help Family Support? No, Early Help Assessment is a working tool for any professional who is working with children, young people and their family in Worcestershire. It is the Worcestershire Early Help Assessment template or your own agency approved template.

A referral to Early Help Family Support is a Family Support Worker service delivered by Worcestershire County Council and requires a request to be completed via their website.

Why do I need to submit an Early Help Assessment?

So that Worcestershire Local Authorities can report on, recognise and understand the Early Help being provided by all agencies / services across Worcestershire to our children and young people. This is reported to the Early help partnership board and helps inform impact and needs for children and young people and their families in Worcestershire.

Professionals who have completed an early help assessment for a child, young person and their family are asked to submit

No, an Early Help Assessment is a voluntary process and therefore parents and children where appropriate should be fully engaged in the process, and consent must be given. If a young person requests an Early Help Assessment and does not want parents involved they can give consent themselves (following Fraser Guidelines [competence and Fraser guidelines | NSPCC](#).) Learning The Early Help Assessment cannot proceed without either the Parent or Young Person consenting.

Do I have to include parents?

Yes both parents whether parenting together or not should be included in the Early Help Assessment where safe and appropriate to do so.

Does my Early Help Assessment have to be completed on the Worcestershire Safeguarding Partnership Board template?

No, you can use your agency Early Help Assessment template. Please ensure the signs of safety (SoS) approach is used in your document / template.

All Worcestershire Forms are available on this website for use.

What happens if

The DFE requires us to capture Supporting Families Outcome Scores in Worcestershire and it helps us to evidence the impact and outcomes we are making to children and young people. This data is submitted to the DFE for Worcestershire and reported to the Early Help Partnership board.

How do I tell the Local Authority that I have done an Early help assessment?

When an Early Help Assessment is submitted via the Third Party Assessment Portal, it will be picked up by a member of the Early Help Partnership. [Third Party Professional Assessment \(worcschildrenfirst.org.uk\)](https://www.worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

How will I know if someone has already done an early help assessment?

How often do I need to review the Early Help plan?

Good Practice is that it reviewed at least every 3 months. The importance is not allowing drift or delay to happen and families not getting the help and support. This is a needs based process and meetings can be held more frequently. A plan should be reviewed as often as is needed to make sure the plan is working and is kept on track for the child/young person and family.

What if only one parent is agreeing to an Early Help assessment? The consent of one parent is sufficient, so if parents are living separately you should normally obtain the parent the child is living with.

However, each situation is different, and you will need to manage each situation carefully so as not to exacerbate situations. Ensure seek advice from your line manager.