

St Mary's School Child Protection: Offer of Early Help (October 2023)

Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

At St Mary's we are committed to identifying children with needs early and taking positive action to ensure that those needs are met through help available both in school and from outside agencies.

There are clear systems, and easy opportunities, for staff to identify and share concerns about children they believe are vulnerable and who may require additional monitoring and support. Parents are encouraged to approach school with any concerns that they have, particularly relating to children's difficulties that manifest themselves outside the school environment.

What does Early Help include?

Support for pupils which includes:

- Promoting good attendance and punctuality.
- Promoting self-esteem and confidence.
- Promoting positive behaviour and positive attitudes to learning.
- Providing individualised support.

Support for families which includes:

- Providing information and signposting to other services in the local area.
- Liaising with a range of external services such as housing and social care.
- Assistance in completing paperwork and forms e.g. housing, foodbank vouchers, attendance and support at school and other agency meetings.
- Advice and support in promoting positive behaviour at home.
- Guidance with career and personal development and access to training and workshops in school.

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Who provides Early Help support in school?

The answer is any member of staff; usually, the class teacher in the first instance as they have most contact with the children. All staff receive safeguarding training to ensure that advice given is in the best interests of keeping children safe. The school telephone number is 01452 714053

Mr Liam Jordan is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL); Mrs Rebecca Lansdown is Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL).

Miss Janet Payne is the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo).

We have a pastoral support team that consists of a Pastoral Support Lead (Miss Hollie Dew) and Pastoral Support Worker (Mrs Rachael Jones). The Pastoral Support team provide advice and support to parents regarding a range of areas including family difficulties, parenting strategies and managing challenging behaviour at home. The Pastoral Support Lead & Worker also works directly with children in school providing programmes of support linked to a range of issues including dealing with loss, developing self-esteem, managing feelings and behaviour and dealing with difficult family matters.

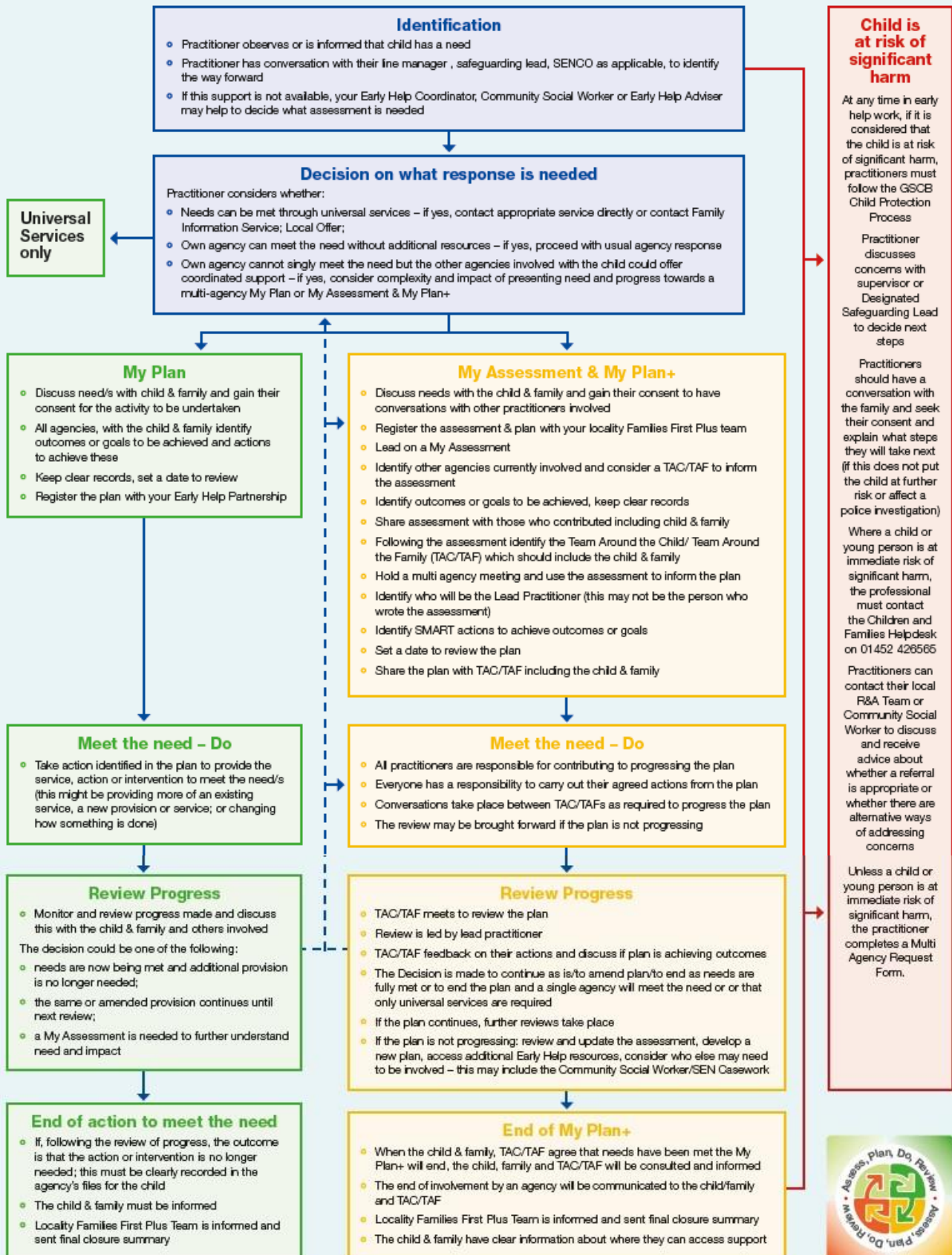
Graduated Pathway Flowchart – Early Help and Support for Children, Young People and Families

What to do and How

Graduated Early Help and Support involves: identification; assessment; planning; providing services; and reviewing the plan.

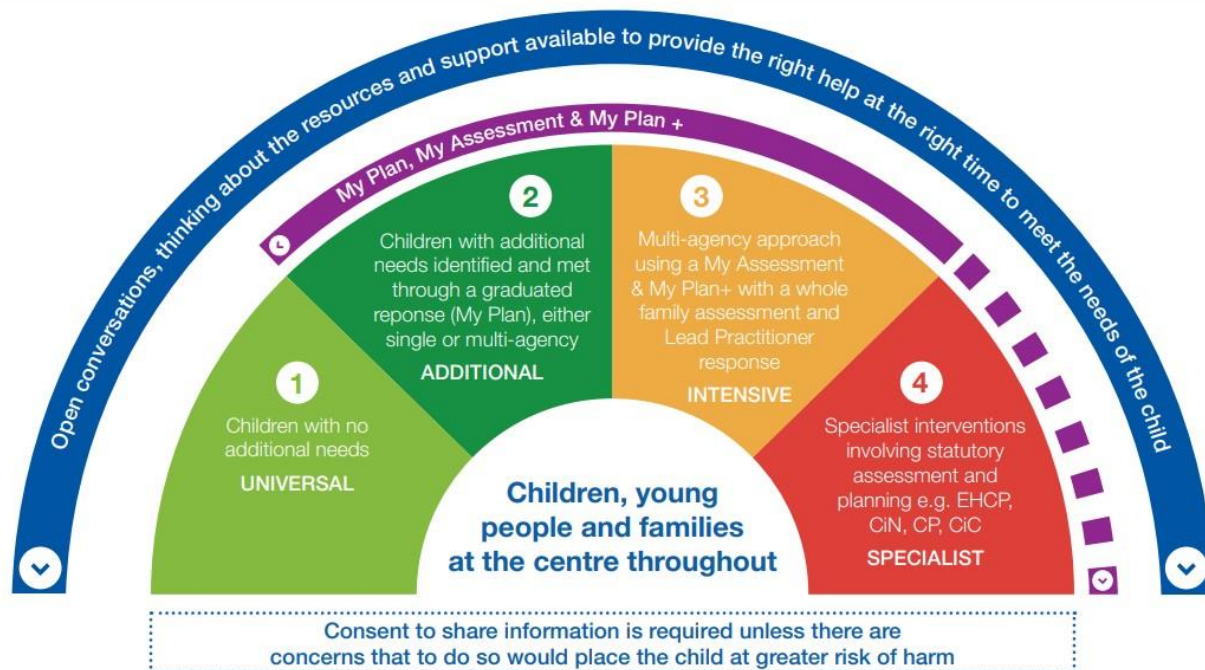
At any time in early help work, if it is considered that a child is at immediate risk of significant harm, the practitioner must contact the Children & Families Help Desk.

Throughout any work with children, young people and their families, where practitioners have concerns or differences in opinion about the decisions or practice of others that they cannot resolve on their own, they can refer to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board Escalation Policy.



The Windscreen

A diagram to demonstrate the Continuum of Need



If you think a child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm, contact
The Front Door on 01452 426565 (option 1) - in an emergency always call 999

Levels of Need Table

Level	Needs	Services (Examples)	Outcome
Level 1 – Universal Open access to provision	Children and young people are making good overall progress in all areas of their development. They are very likely to be living in a protective environment where their needs are well recognised and met accordingly. These children will require no additional support beyond that which is universally available.	Examples include: ✓ Education Providers ✓ Health Visitors ✓ Midwives ✓ GP's ✓ Universal services accessed through Children and Family Centres, e.g. Stay and Play ✓ Childminders/Nurseries ✓ Leisure centres Advice and guidance to families and professionals is available through Gloucestershire Family Information Service .	Children and young people make good progress in most areas of development
Level 2 – Additional A coordinated response, through an Early Help Plan – 'My Plan' which may require a single or multi-agency response. The Lead Practitioner will coordinate support and review progress through the Team	Children and young people with additional needs, who would benefit from extra help - often from practitioners who are already involved with them. Children and families may need help to: • Improve access to education and educational outcomes • Improve parenting and/or behaviour • Meet specific health or emotional	Examples include: ✓ Early Years Services ✓ Health visitors ✓ Midwives ✓ Speech and Language Therapy ✓ Education providers ✓ Educational psychology ✓ Group work accessed through Children and Family Centres, e.g. Rainbows Autism Support Group; Young Carers ✓ Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	The life chances of children and families are improved by offering Early Help additional support

Around the Child/Team Around the Family where a multi-agency response is required.	needs • Improve their material situation • Respond to a short-term crisis such as bereavement or parental separation • Support to recognise and mitigate risk	CAMHs ✓ Youth Support Service ✓ Early Help Coordinators providing support with the Graduated Pathway ✓ Housing support ✓ Services provided on a voluntary basis	
Level 3 – Intensive Targeted Early Help response taking a multi-agency approach through an Early Help Assessment - 'My Assessment and My Plan+'. The Lead Practitioner will coordinate support and review progress through the Team Around the Child/Team Around the Family.	Vulnerable children and their families with multiple needs or whose needs are more complex, such as children and families who: • Their presenting behaviour may pose challenges to services. • Struggle to find key services, such as school and health accessible for them • Are not in education or work long-term • An unborn baby, child or young person living in circumstances where there is an identified risk associated with parental behaviour	Examples include: ✓ Specialist health services ✓ Police ✓ Youth Justice ✓ Youth support services ✓ Education providers ✓ Educational psychology ✓ Children and Family Centres – Targeted Family Support (for children aged 0-11); Group Work (e.g. Solihull, Webster Stratton, Best Start) ✓ CAMHs ✓ SEN/D 0-25 ✓ Families First – Targeted Family Support (0-19); ✓ Advice and Guidance provided by Early Help Coordinators and Community Social Workers ✓ Housing support ✓ Services provided on a voluntary basis	Identified children and families will be supported by services to enable them to achieve. Issues will be prevented from escalating into safeguarding concerns requiring statutory intervention
Level 4 – Specialist Children in Need of	A child or young person living in circumstances where there is a significant risk of abuse or neglect,	Examples include: ✓ Children's Social Care	Children and/or family members are likely to suffer significant harm/removal from home/serious and
Specialist Support from Children's Social Care, including Children in Need of Protection and Children in Need of Care	where the young person themselves may pose a risk of serious harm to others or where there are complex needs in relation to disability. An unborn baby, child or young person living in circumstances where they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm related to an identified risk associated with parental behaviour These children will have complex needs across a range of domains that requires an assessment under the Children Act 1989	✓ Police ✓ Youth Justice ✓ Youth support services ✓ Specialist Education providers ✓ Specialist Health Providers ✓ GDASS	lasting impairment without the intervention of specialist services Pregnant woman, unborn, children and young people are supported to be safe from domestic abuse and/or coercive control

'Early Help in Gloucestershire'

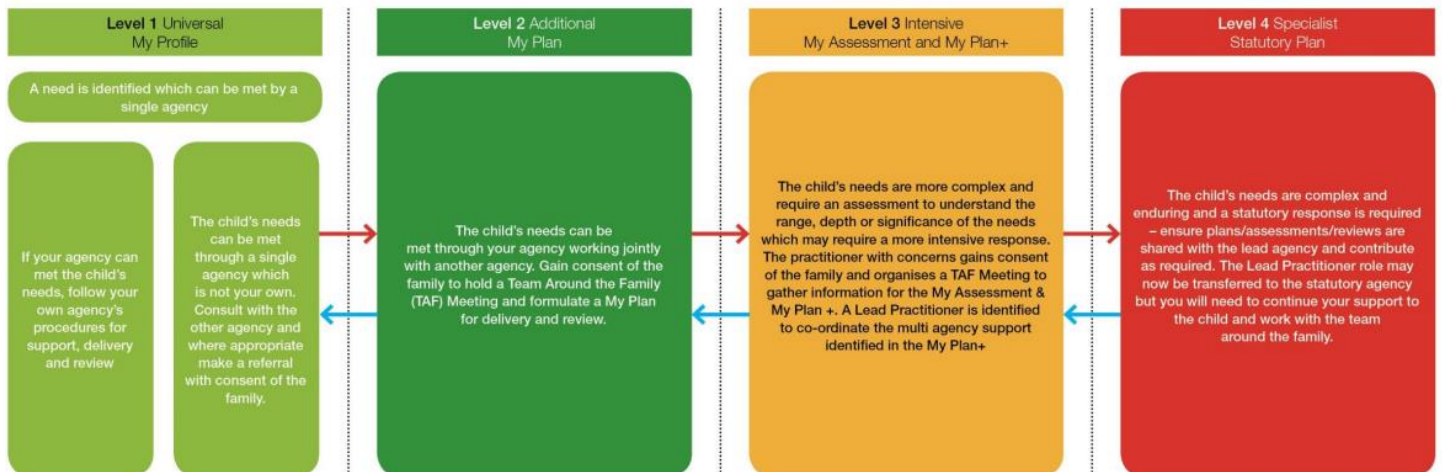
The school offer works in conjunction with the Gloucestershire County Council local offer Early Help.

https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/family.page?familychannel=2_1

Early Help Pathway

Level of intervention

At any time If you think a child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm, contact the Gloucestershire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 01452 426565 In an emergency call 999. Always follow the GCSB Child Protection Process <http://www.gscb.org.uk>. Discuss concerns with your Supervisor or Designated Safeguarding Lead at all levels.



If you need help with the Graduated Pathway (My Plan, My Plan +, EHCP), want to know how to coordinate a Team Around the Family/Child, or need to understand the role of the Lead Practitioner please contact the Early Help co-ordinators in your locality.

Cheltenham	01452 328160	cheltenhamearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Cotswolds	01452 328101	cotswoldsearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Forest of Dean	01452 328048	forestofdeanearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Gloucester	01452 328076	gloucesterearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Stroud	01452 328130	stroudearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Tewkesbury	01452 328251	tewkesburyearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Arrow key

Level of need reduced

Greater need identified

Offer of Early Help (other agencies / sources of advice and support) follow –link above for wider sources

Universal source of help for all families in Gloucestershire: Gloucestershire Family Information Service (FIS)	Gloucestershire Family Information Service (FIS) advisors give impartial information on childcare, finances, parenting and education. FIS are a useful source of information for parents and professionals. They support families, children and young people aged 0-19 years of age (25 for young people with additional needs) and professionals working with these families. They can help link parents up with other organisations that might be able to help or provide the information themselves e.g. parents could ask them about holiday clubs for your children across Gloucestershire. Contact the FIS by emailing: familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk Or telephone: (0800) 542 0202 or (01452) 427362. FIS also have a website which has a wealth of information to support many issues such as childcare and support for children with disabilities: https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/home.page For information for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) go to the SEN and Disability 'Local Offer' website: https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/family.page?familychannel=2_1 An informative video which explains the Gloucestershire Graduated Pathway of support can be viewed from the following link: http://sendiassglos.org.uk/education/
GSCP (Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership)	https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gscp/ Important information for parents and professionals across Gloucestershire in relation to keeping children safe and avenues of support including early help options.
Children or young people with multiple needs (vulnerable) or multiple needs (complex) requiring multi-agency input or assessment.	Within Gloucestershire Early Help Partnership (Co-ordinated by Families First Plus) provide multi-agency support for children and families. A phone call to discuss a possible referral is helpful before making written referral. Parents must consent to a referral. School actively seek support when appropriate. Referrals go to the Early Help Partnership (representation from Education, health, social care etc. and referring agencies are encouraged to attend. All agencies should view themselves as part of this Early Help Partnership. The referral meeting is a multi-agency discussion to decide the best way forward: Early Help Partnership/Families First Plus: Cheltenham: cheltenhamearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk Tel: 01452 328161 Gloucester: gloucesterearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk Tel: 01452 328076 Stroud: stroudearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk Tel: 01452 328130 Tewkesbury: tewkesburyearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk Tel: 01452 328 250 Cotswold: cotswoldsearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk Tel: 01452 328101 FOD: forestofdeanearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk Tel: 01452 328048 These teams are made up of the following professionals Early Help Coordinators: Community Social Worker and Family Support Workers. They all work together from one base so they can recognise and respond to local needs and act as a focal point for coordinating support for vulnerable children, young people and their families

Children or young people with multiple needs (vulnerable) or multiple needs (complex) requiring multi-agency input or assessment. (continued)	Support provided includes: Support for school and community based lead professionals working with children and families; Collaboration with social care referrals that do not meet their thresholds, to co-ordinate support within the community; Work in partnership to support children with special educational needs in school; Advice and guidance from a social work perspective on a 'discussion in principle basis' ; Signpost children with disabilities and their families to access activities and meet specific needs; Advice and guidance to lead professionals and the provision of high quality parenting and family support services to families. <u>Youth Support Team (YST)</u>: The Youth Support Team provide a range of services for vulnerable young people aged between 11 - 19 (and up to 25 for young people with special needs), including: Youth offending Looked after children Care leaver's support services (for those aged 16+) Early intervention and prevention service for 11 - 19 year olds Support for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities Positive activities for young people with disabilities Support with housing and homelessness Help and support to tackle substance misuse problems and other health issues Support into education, training and employment Support for teenage parents – For General Enquiries: T: 01452 426900 E: info.glos@prospects.co.uk To make a referral: T: 01452 427923 <u>Gloucestershire Young Carers</u> Offer support and activities for children who act as carers for adults in the home on a referral basis. Tel 01452 733060; www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk
Mental health concerns	www.onyourmindglos.nhs.uk – a newly launched website by Gloucestershire as part of the Future in Mind programme. This website is good for young people, parents and professionals in terms of help with mental health issues and where to go for help. • Referral to school nurses may be appropriate. • Referral to CYPS (Gloucestershire's mental health services) via your own GP. • For children/young people/adults with existing mental health difficulties concerns should be discussed with the existing medical professionals (consultant psychiatrists). In an emergency call 999 or 111. CYPS Practitioner advice line (for professionals to call) Tel: 01452 894272. <u>Teens in Crisis (TIC+)</u> Offer support, counselling and advice for children aged 8+ who are struggling with social, emotional and mental health needs. Tel 01594 372777 www.ticplus.org.uk