



# HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

## What is an Early Help Assessment?



An Early Help Assessment is a tool we use to support our work with families. It helps us to identify what families need help with, and shows us how we can work with families to make the changes they need.

We work with families using the 'Circle of Support', which is an Early Help Assessment tool. It helps to guide our conversations and find out what is working well, and what additional support may benefit your family.

We focus on all those living within your family home and wider family connections to develop a clear picture of what day to day life is like. The Circle of Support has a set of question prompts for parents and carers, and another set of questions that are specifically for children and young people. These tools help us to get the views of everyone within your family.



Within the Circle of Support, is the Readiness to Change model and the family will be asked to score themselves on each area of the assessment criteria's.

The Early Help Assessment is not a referral form for other professionals to complete, in order to receive another service to support the family. The purpose of the assessment is to identify what help is needed, and to inform a family plan of support which will identify who may be able to best support you.

The Early Help Assessment can be shared with other services, who can offer additional support. It helps everyone to work together, to make sure you get the right help at the right time and strengthen community connections. It is a shared document so that you only tell your story once. This document is stored safely within our case management system.

When we use a restorative approach in the Early Help Assessment, we focus on asking key questions to understand why there are challenges or concerns. The idea is to uncover the root causes, address any harm, and improve things for children, young people, and families. These questions are open-ended and don't blame anyone. The goal is to work together to find solutions.

For more information on Early Help – please visit our website;  
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help>

