

Early Help Re-Structure – Commencing July 1st 2024

Dear Partner,

We hope you are doing well.

You might have heard of the budget cuts to Early Help, but please know that Early Help is still functioning and working with you and families as before.

The whole Early Help system is committed to offering high-quality support and interventions for children and families who require it, and we value your collaboration and participation in this work.

Please find below a short summary of some of the changes that are happening as we transition to new arrangements.

Structure

We will still have 10 localities, each locality will have one Birmingham Children's Trust (BCT) Early Help Team who will be aligned to 5 Voluntary sectors providers, each of these will support 2 localities.

The 5 Voluntary sector pairings aligned to 10 BCT teams are outlined below:

Organisation	Locality
Compass	Sutton Coldfield & Erdington
Green Square Accord	Hall Green & Selly Oak
Gateway Family Services	Edgbaston & Northfield
Barnardo's	Yardley & Hodge Hill
Family Action	Perry Bar & Ladywood

Family Support Workers:

No change to BCT early help workers, however, the Voluntary sector Family Support Workers will see a slight reduction to 14.5 FTE across the city.

Community Connectors: The Voluntary Sector Community Connector role will see the biggest reduction in overall capacity, with the number of roles reducing by 50%. Due to the significant reduction in this role, the Early Help system has had to re-think the focus of the role. Each locality will have two community connectors, however, their role will have more of a focus on community development rather than a complete focus on direct family facing work.

All community connectors will remain in their current roles until June 30th 2024, we will then gradually transition to the revised arrangements.

In addition to the above, Birmingham Children's Trust have had to reduce some of its commissioned service, therefore:

- Primary aged mentoring programme will be ending June 2024
- Think Family Housing offer has been cut back now offering weekly advice surgeries to Early Help teams for families living in Birmingham City Council accommodation.

- See Housing advice and pathways document for partner's



Housing
pathways.docx

Transition

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and commitment to providing high-quality early help services to families in need. Although we are striving to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements, we acknowledge that the transition to the new arrangements may present some delays to referrals, challenges and inconveniences for you and families, and we appreciate your flexibility and patience during this time

Our aim is to create a more effective and integrated early help system that can support families earlier and better, without requiring referrals to access the appropriate services. To achieve this, we need your help and involvement in the upcoming weeks and months as we work together to transform our ways of working and build stronger connections with schools and other community-based services.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Holmes – Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention – Birmingham Children's Trust



Brian Carr – Chief Executive Officer – BVSC

