

Early Help



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WARRINGTON
Borough Council

What is Early Help?

The purpose of Early Help is to prevent issues from getting worse by offering support at the right time. Any professional working with a family, such as those based in schools, health services, or in voluntary sector organisations, can offer early help services by responding to identified needs in order to offer advice, support and intervention. Early Help works best when it is offered to the whole family and when services are delivered jointly by professionals. Early Help is everyone's business.

Warrington Borough Council's Early Help teams provide support to children, young people and their families as soon as difficulties start to emerge. The Early Help teams work with families and professionals to offer a range of support services:

- Children centres
- Early years education and childcare
- Support for children (0-4) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Family outreach
- Parenting programmes
- Youth Service
- Ask Ollie
- Families Information Service



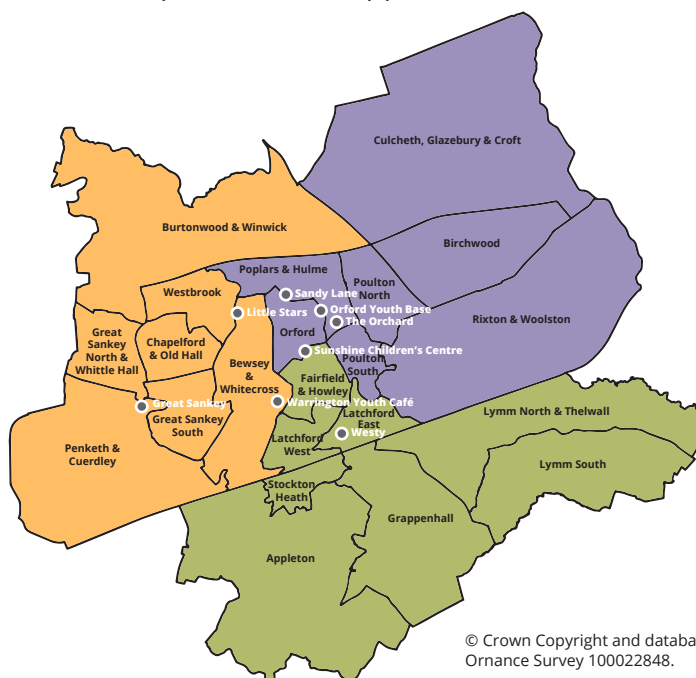
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Locality teams

There are three locality teams within Warrington (see map). Each locality team is made up of staff from different professional backgrounds including early years, children centres, family outreach, youth services and other specialist services.

Locality teams work with other partner agencies such as schools, health, police, community safety team, housing providers, probation and substance misuse providers to support children and families.



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Ordnance Survey 100022848.

Early Help Assessment

Early Help Assessment (EHA) is the tool used to identify and assess needs in families and can be used by any professional working with a family in Warrington. The assessment is completed in partnership with the family and a range of agencies in order to create a package of support that meets the needs of the whole family. The Early Help Assessment monitors family outcomes to ensure that services are making a difference to families and to improve services for the future.

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Children Centres

There are six Children's Centres in Warrington which offer a variety of play based learning activities for young children and their families, which can be accessed in group sessions or one-to-one home visits. With a particular focus on the most disadvantaged families, Children's Centres aim to work with families to reduce inequalities in child development and school readiness.

Children's Centres aim to improve:

- **Parenting aspirations, self-esteem and parenting skills.** Staff build on strengths and support aspirations so that parents and carers are able to give their child the best start in life
- **Child and family health and life chances** by promoting good physical and mental health for children and their families and by supporting parents to improve the skills that enable them to access education, training and employment.
- **Safeguarding.** Staff work with parents and carers to address risk factors so that children and their families are safe, free from poverty and able to improve both their immediate wellbeing and their future life chances.



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Early Years Education and Childcare

In Warrington, there are a range of settings that provide early education in the early years for children aged 0-4. These include pre-schools, day nurseries, childminders, schools with nursery classes and a nursery school.

To help parents and carers to take up these early learning opportunities for their children, they can access:

Early Education Funding

3 & 4 year old Funded Early Education

Three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours of early education over a minimum of 38 weeks to a maximum of 570 hours over a year. This applies until they reach compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday).

This funding is payable to all 3 and 4 year old children regardless of parental income, from the term after the child's third birthday.

30 hours Extended Entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds

Some working parents of three and four year olds are eligible for an additional 15 hours of childcare per week. This is also known as 30 hours free childcare.

The eligibility criteria are as follows;

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family) and each parent earns a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national living wage, and less than £100,000 per year.

Funded childcare for 2 year olds

Two year old funded childcare places are available to a limited number of two year old children from the first day of the new term following their second birthday.



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Early Years Education and Childcare

The child would receive up to 15 hours early education per week at a private nursery, pre-school, maintained nursery school/class or accredited childminder in Warrington.

The council's Information and Childcare Team offer advice and support to practitioners, parents and carers on the many issues surrounding childcare and early years across Warrington.

The team consists of:

- Early Years Quality Support Officers and Early Help Team Leaders - They lead on the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) support to childcare providers and promote high quality provision across the borough by supporting providers with their quality, business and training needs.
- Early Years Childcare Development Officers – they support childminders and out of school providers, as well as providing a comprehensive professional development programme for the early years workforce.



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Support for children (0-4) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

This early help service is available to children, young people and their families throughout Warrington. **SEND** support includes advocacy and specialist advice and activities to support children and young people to achieve their individual learning goals and to promote inclusive access to services.

SEND helps parents and young people, up to the age of 25, to make informed decisions. The service offers early help to its service users by providing impartial advice and practical support about:

- Moving to high school or college
- Annual reviews
- Disagreement resolution.

The Portage Team is a home visiting service for pre-school children (under the age of 5) with special educational needs or a disability. It provides regular home visiting to:

- support the development of play, communication, relationships, and learning for young children within the family
- support the child's and family's participation and inclusion in the community
- work with parents enabling them to take the lead role in their child's development
- help parents to identify what is important to them and their child, planning goals for learning and participation.



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Family Outreach

Family support is delivered by a dedicated team of workers known as the Family Outreach Team (FOT). They support families at an early stage to improve the life chances of children and young people.

The Family Outreach Team work with families experiencing a range of challenges such as debt, housing issues, domestic violence, poor mental or emotional health, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, and neglect, through home visiting and assessment of needs.

A key aspect of the help provided to families includes:

- Support to families with children aged 0-19 years old with complex and multiple needs
- An assessment of needs, helping families to identify what works well and what needs to change
- Acting as lead professional for the family, helping the family to access support and work with other services to make changes
- Parenting advice and working with the family to improve the confidence and self-esteem of children, young people and parents/carers
- Being a positive role model and advocate for children and young people
- Listening to the views of families and their children to provide support.



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Parenting Programmes

Evidenced Based Parenting Programmes can form part of wider Early Help Support. The programmes are delivered across Warrington by accredited facilitators. They deliver a wide menu of parenting programmes depending on the age of the children, family needs and circumstances and desired outcomes.

Parenting programmes aim to help parents provide the best possible environment in which their children can develop socially, emotionally and reach their full potential. They aim to promote well-being and resilience by supporting families to build good attachment in infancy and beyond and reduce the likelihood of problems arising, whilst improving overall parenting.



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Youth Service

The Youth Service works with young people aged 11-19, and up to 25 in certain circumstances, to support their personal, social and emotional development. Youth work is based on the voluntary engagement of young people and it 'starts where young people are at' and puts their needs at the centre of the work.

The Youth Service offers a range of support, from one-to-one sessions to help young people to address specific difficulties to targeted group work and wider group based interventions and activities, all delivered by professionally qualified youth workers.

The Youth Service offers the following interventions:

- One to one support to overcome social and emotional difficulties
- One to one support to tackle substance misuse
- Targeted groups for specific needs
- 'Open access' sessions provided in Orford Youth Base, the Youth Café and in communities via our Mobile Youth Bus.

Young people can self-refer or drop in to an 'open' session to talk to a youth worker, or professionals can refer a young person to the service.



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Ask Ollie



Warrington's Local Offer website – Ask Ollie is a dedicated website supporting parents and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). The site provides information for professionals working with children and young people and their families.

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/localoffer/>



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Families Information Service



Family Information Service provides free information, advice and support on all aspects of family life. Whether you are expecting a baby, have young children or teenagers, we can support you in the role as parent, carer or any other family member.

It is a free, impartial one-stop-shop service for parents/carers and young people aged 0–19, providing accurate and detailed information on services in Warrington and across the region.



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How to refer to Early Help Services

Parents, carers and young people

If you need support for you or your family, contact any of the services in this leaflet and a member of the Early Help team will help you to access the right support.

Professionals

To refer a child/family you must complete the Multi Agency Request for Services (MARS) form: www.warrington.gov.uk/mars

All referrals must have written consent. This consent will be used to share information about children, young people and family members in order to establish how best to meet a family's needs. All information will be kept in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. Further information can be found at www.warrington.gov.uk/dataprotection

Obtaining and sharing information with other agencies, professionals and partners is an important part of the Assessment Process as it gives a fuller picture of the child's, young person's and family's circumstances and needs. In addition, other professionals may be able to offer services and support.

We may also share information to assess whether our services are working effectively and to improve our services for the future. This includes sharing with the government to conduct research on the impact and outcomes of services paid for by public money.

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