

# SAFEGUARDING ADOLESCENTS

## AGENCY PROCESSES

### Agency Process: Early Help/Intervention

#### Introduction

Early Help and Family Support is a way of working with children and their families that involves listening to the family, to identify their needs and provide appropriate support and services. Early Help and Family Support is provided to children and their families who have multiple needs and require a co-ordinated multi-agency response.

The use of the Early Help Assessment facilitates early identification of needs and then provides a framework leading to a co-ordinated provision of services, involving a lead professional, and sharing of information to avoid duplication of assessments. Following an assessment, an action plan will be agreed with the family, which is put in place to ensure the family receive the right help at the right time. Early Help and Family Support is voluntary, and families can choose to be involved.

The [Isle of Wight Early Help](#) model is overseen by the Early Help Coordinator and facilitated by practitioners working across all agencies including health, education, and the voluntary sector.

The [Hampshire Early Help](#) Hub model is co-ordinated by the Family Support Service and involves a range of practitioners who contribute to the local Early Help offer.

The Family Support Service is part of the Early Help provision for Hampshire supporting families with children aged 0-19 years old to provide a joined-up, whole-family approach to those who have high level needs.

#### What is the impact on safeguarding adolescents?

The aim of Early Help is to ideally prevent, but otherwise to resolve, any issues before they become more complex and serious and require statutory intervention. Professionals will provide a multi-agency approach, working with the family and children to agree a Family Plan which identifies areas of needs and actions to help empower families in crisis to make changes and for children to achieve the best possible outcomes. The Early Help Hub works with families and young people who would like some extra support to deal with difficult situations. Getting early help can prevent situations from escalating.

Providing a range of support to adolescents empowers them to make significant life changes. This support can be provided by offering one-to-one support, referrals and signposting to other professionals or services and recommending appropriate courses.

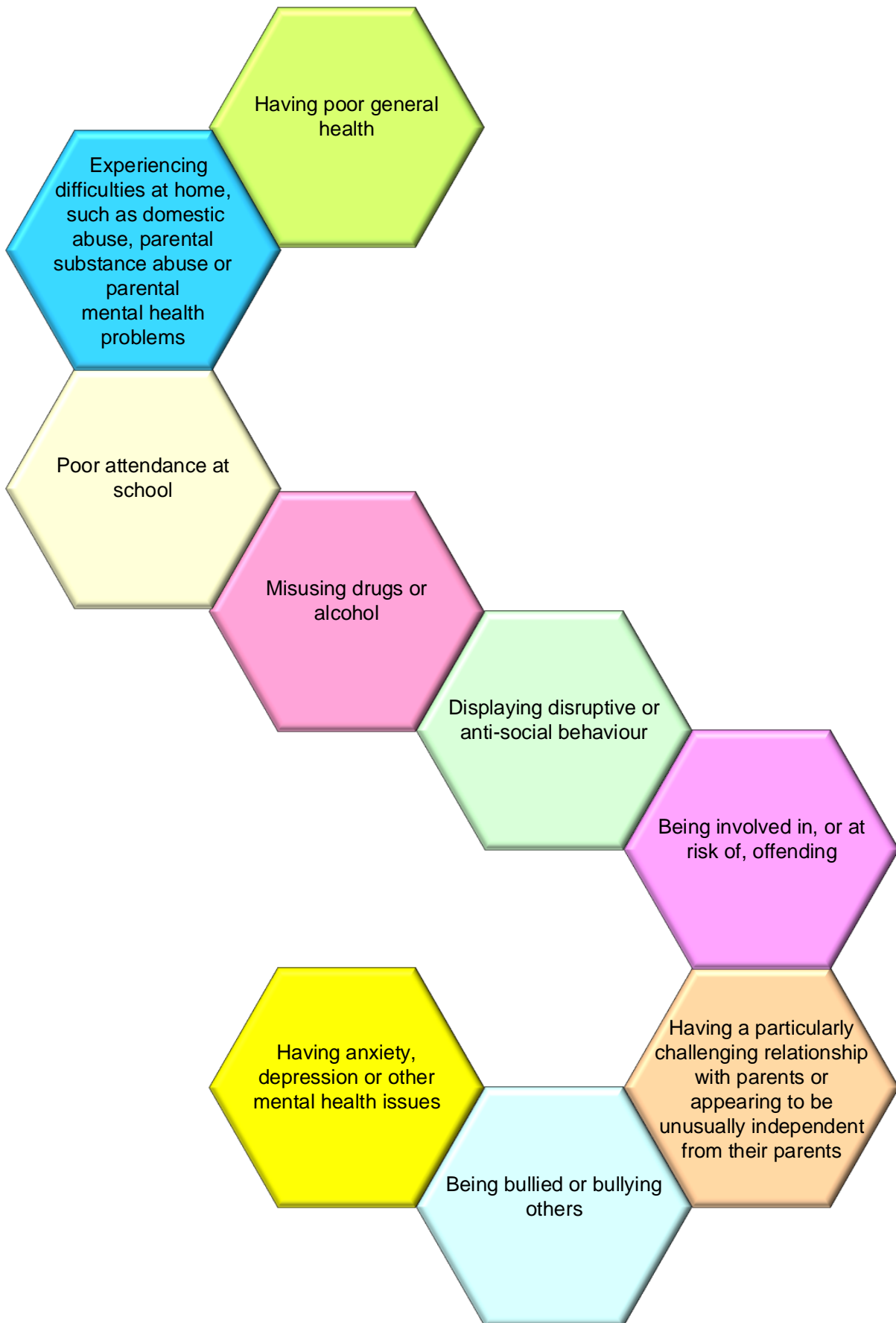
Co-ordinated help is provided for a range of issues, including:

- Family relationships
- Challenging behaviours
- Emotional and mental health
- Healthy relationships
- Relationship and sex education
- Keeping safe
- Child exploitation and risk assessment
- Future aspirations
- Alcohol and drug issues

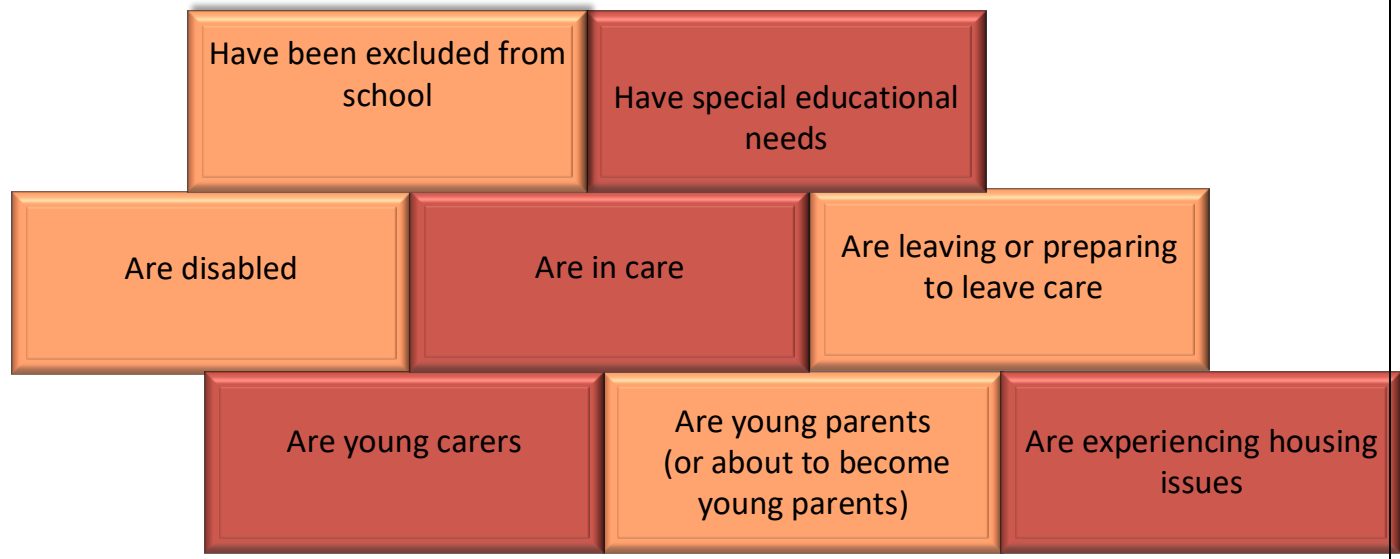
Children's voices are important, and it is vital they are heard and understood. Early Help works alongside children and their families to identify what the concerns are, what support is needed and build on the strengths already in place.

## Identifying a child or young person who may benefit from early help

Signs that a young person may benefit from early help include:



Some groups of children may be more likely to need early help than their peers. These include children who:



### Additional Resources and Information

[Barnardo's Family Centres](#) - Family Support and Parenting Programmes.

[Threshold Chart](#) - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Threshold Chart.

[Early help \(or early intervention\) | NSPCC Learning](#) – Information on Early Help.

#### Local

##### *Isle of Wight*

[Barnardo's Family Centres Isle of Wight](#)

[Public Health Nursing 0-19 years \(Isle of Wight\)](#) - Offered to all children under 19 years who live on the Isle of Wight, including those currently in elective home education. School nurses deliver the 0-19 Healthy Child Programmes in partnership with other agencies providing early intervention and prevention, through a variety of approaches.

[Young Carers Service Isle of Wight](#) - Provides an Isle of Wight Council commissioned support service for young carers across the Isle of Wight, including:

- 1:1 support for higher needs young carers at home or in school,
- meeting up with other young carers in a safe space,
- welcoming and friendly staff always willing to listen,
- information and guidance to support carers and their families.

[Isle of Wight Early Help Assessment \(EHA\)](#) – Further details regarding the Early Help Assessment.

## **Hampshire**

[Family Information and Services Hub](#) - Details on how families can access services, organisations and activities in Hampshire, and the advice and support that is available.

[Hampshire Early Help](#) - Information about the Family Support Service.

[What is Early Help?](#) - A useful guide from Hampshire County Council, explaining Early Help.

[Hampshire Early Help Intervention Pathway](#) - Helping professionals to identify the correct level of support.

[Children and Family Services](#) - Southern Health and Barbado's partnership.

[Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) - An overview of Early Help in Hampshire.

[Hampshire Early Help for Families](#) - A leaflet for parents/carers to explain Early Help.

[Hampshire Young Carers](#) - information for supporting Young Carers in Hampshire.