

Stakeholder Briefing

Realigning our early intervention services

The purpose of this briefing is to give you more information about the work taking place to realign the Council's early intervention services.

Introduction

Our Children's Services department is facing significant challenges with regards to the complexity of work it has to deal with. We therefore need to adapt the way services are delivered to ensure the right support is provided for children and families in Solihull and in the most efficient and effective way.

As such, the way we deliver some aspects of Children's Services, in particular Engage, will be changing from April 2019.

A new structure has been agreed which involves joining the current Engage (Early Help) service with the Children's Assessment Team and Children in Need Team (from the social work service) and realigning them into a new Family Support Service. It also involves colleagues from Engage moving across into our Stronger Communities directorate to work with and support the community based initiatives that are currently in place and being developed.

This has been created in line with the Council's corporate approach to strengthen communities, helping people to build resilience and find local solutions before needing intervention from social care.

The framework in which the new structure will operate is based on the Council's Locality Model. This is where the Council along with other organisations such as the police, Solihull Community Housing, health and the third sector will be delivering services based on the borough being divided into three areas: north, east and west.

Due to the diversity of needs within these localities, three levels of support will be available to people. These will be dependent on their individual circumstances and will be delivered using a universal, targeted or specialist approach.

Universal

This means that all children and young people will receive universal services such as nursery provision, education and health services, which are available to them at the point of need.

Targeted

Some children, either because of their needs or circumstances will require extra support to be healthy and safe so as to achieve their full potential. This is where more targeted support will be needed from a wider group of professionals and/or services such as school nurses, health visitors or trained people from the third sector.

Specialist

If the need of the child or young person requires a statutory response to keep them safe or to ensure their continued development is not jeopardised, they may require a specialist response to meet their needs such as social work intervention.

Timetable

Following a formal consultation process with staff a structure has been agreed for the new Family Support Service.

Work is now underway to transition to the new ways of working, which come into effect on 1 April 2019.

What this means for people we work with

It is important to be aware existing services will continue as normal until the new arrangements come into effect on 1 April.

There will be lots of work taking place over the coming months to make the transition happen and ensure there is minimal impact on children, young people and families.

Once decisions are made about specific services we will make sure you are informed about how the changes may impact on you and work together to implement these.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments please email ehchangeconsultation@solihull.gov.uk