

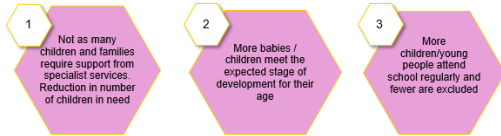
Early Help Strategy 2021 – 23

Early Help means picking up on any problems as soon as possible so they don't get too big, and working alongside families to put things in place to help them get better

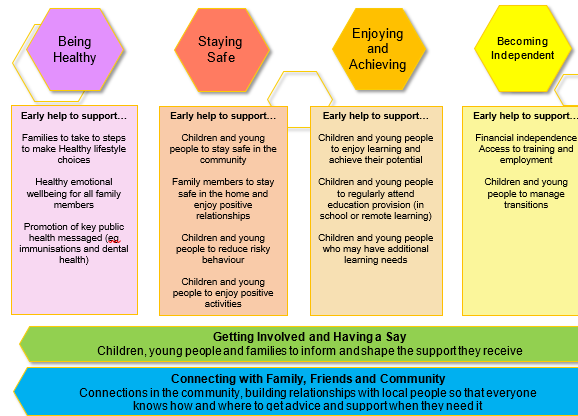


Considering the key information above, we have identified, and we commit to working together to achieve the following three priority outcomes through delivery of our Early Help Strategy.

We will review these priorities to ensure they remain relevant in light of the COVID pandemic and its impact on family life an access to services



In Merton, we want to make sure that all children can achieve well in the following areas of life:

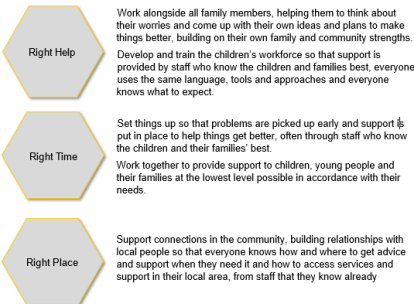


We want Merton to be a place where children and young people:



We have used evidence and information from local and national data to develop our vision. We want to achieve our ambition by using a refreshed approach to Early Help across the whole system so that in Merton we know that we have it in place.

The Right Help, at the Right Time in The Right Place



Our approach and commitment to early help will maximize the range of opportunities that are available to us, so that we continue to support families who have the most to gain from accessing the range of services and support. To this end, we will work collaboratively and collectively so our priorities can be achieved together, so that all children and young people:



The full impact of the pandemic on children and family outcomes is not yet known, however, it is anticipated that there is likely to be a widening of the gap, across all children's outcomes, between children living in deprivation with multiple needs and those that do not.

This strategy is a commitment from everyone within our early help system to work address inequalities for the children, young people and families in Merton.

In Merton, we want all those working with families to have a shared approach to working with families. In order to do this we have adopted a **Systemic, relationship based approach**.

Key elements of the Practice Framework:

The underlying principle behind systemic practice is the ability for those working with families, to build open, honest and strong relationships, and to be able to develop a level of trust which will help them to create real and sustainable change, understanding that individuals are part of a wider context and considering this when working to identify goals and how to achieve them

How the Practice Framework is being used:

- The Practice Framework is used throughout our system, including:
- ✓ Discussions with families
 - ✓ Early Help Assessments and Family Plans
 - ✓ Team Around the Family Networks
 - ✓ Supervision

