

Appendix 6

Children's Services Early Help Strategy

National and East Sussex Context

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1. Summary

This document was first published in May 2019. It sets out the legal and policy framework within which early help is commissioned in East Sussex, and which the draft Children's Services Early Help Strategy must address.

Providing early help services for children, young people and families helps the Council meet its statutory duties, particularly safeguarding children. Working together to safeguard children is statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Early help is included as part of meeting duties under the Children Act 2004 to promote the wellbeing of children working with partners. Early help arrangements are inspected by Ofsted alongside social services in the Single Inspection Framework. Under The Childcare Act 2006, local authorities must 'so far as is reasonably practicable, include arrangements for sufficient provision of children's centres to meet local need'.

The national government strategy shaping Children's Services Early Help services is the Troubled Families Programme. The programme has been shown to contribute to managing children's social care pressures and provides significant savings. We await confirmation that the Troubled Families Programme will continue after 2020.

The government's Civil Society Strategy states that 'The government recognises the transformational impact that youth services and trained youth workers can have.' Statutory guidance for councils about youth work is being reviewed.

There is no national strategy for children's centres. A recent report by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee recommended a national strategy for early intervention.

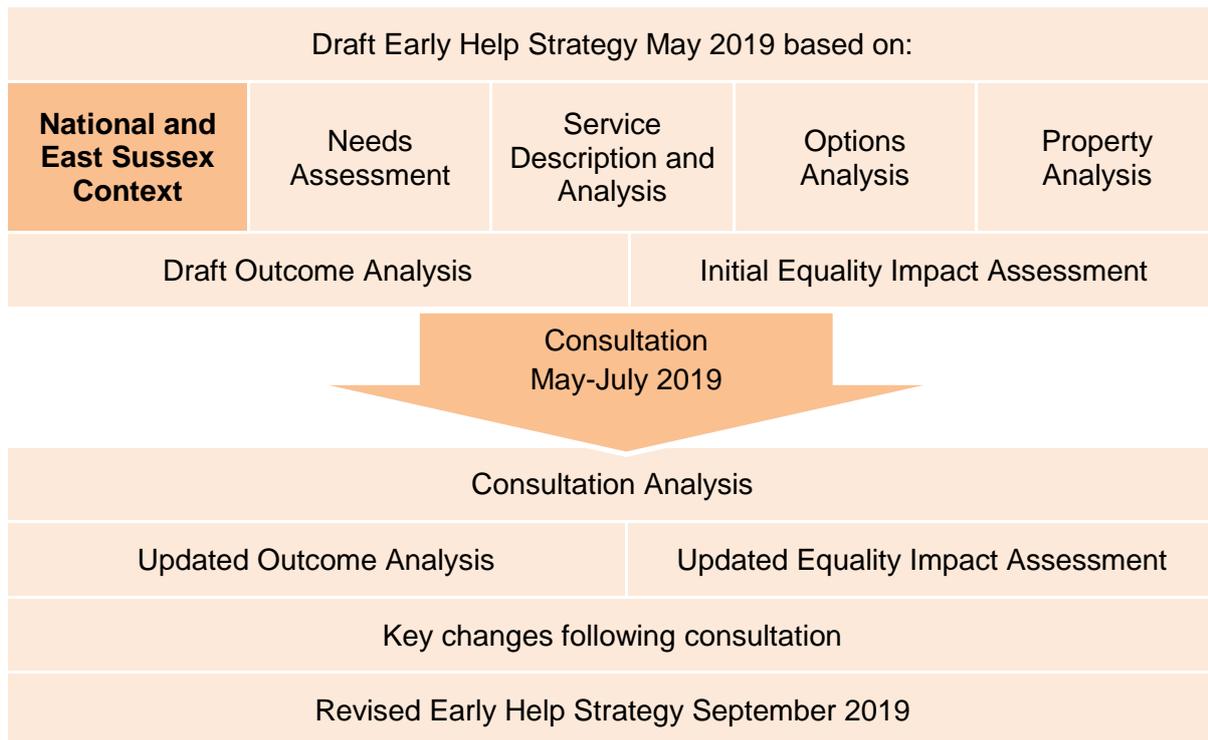
Preventative early help for children, young people and families has been a key element of several service strategies in East Sussex.

The Council Plan for 2019/2020 focuses on providing people with the support they need as early as possible, reducing demand for care services. One of the key objectives in the plan is an effective multi-agency early help system.

2. Purpose

This document sets out the **legal and policy framework** within which East Sussex County Council Children’s Services Early Help is provided. It was developed during 2018/2019 and first published in May 2019.

It is the context for the future services, and is one of a suite of analyses which was provided as supporting information to the draft Children’s Services Early Help Strategy, all of which are available [online](#).



3. National context

3.1 Early help

- i. In 2011 the government also commissioned an independent review [Early Intervention: The Next Steps](#), which concluded that early intervention could make lasting improvements to the lives of children.
- ii. The [Munro Review of Child Protection](#) in 2011 was commissioned by the Department for Education to inform the reform of children's services. Early help was one of the areas considered - referring both to help in the early years of a child or young person's life and early in the emergence of a problem at any stage in their lives. The Munro Report highlighted the growing body of evidence of the effectiveness of early help services and the importance of providing such services:

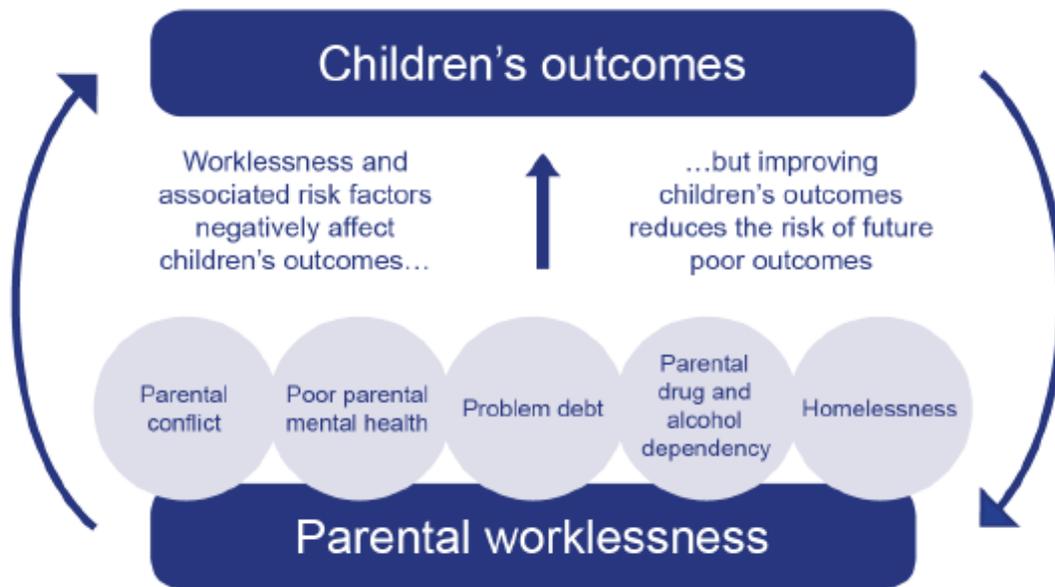
'Preventative services can do more to reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services.'

Early help is better for children: it minimises the period of adverse experiences and improves outcomes for children.

The review recommended an additional duty for local authorities to secure sufficient early help. This was not taken forward.

- iii. Providing early help services helps the Council meet statutory guidance to safeguard children. [Working together to safeguard children](#) is the current statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Early help is included in the guidance as an important part of meeting duties under the [Children Act 2004](#) to promote the wellbeing of children working with partners.
- iv. In March 2015, Ofsted published a national [thematic report on Early Help](#), quoting the Munro Report and concluding that, *'It is only right that local authorities and their partners are focusing increasingly on early help and prevention services for families'*. It reported governance, managerial and process barriers, *'The current statutory framework does not give sufficient clarity and priority to the roles and responsibilities of individual agencies for early help provision.'*
- v. In April 2016, the [Children's Society](#) reported a 70% reduction in government funding for early help services over the previous ten years.
- vi. [Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families](#) published by the Department for Work and Pensions in April 2017 highlighted the multiple disadvantages associated with worklessness (see diagram below). It emphasised:
 - The importance of service reform and robust local cost benefit analysis.
 - Getting the incentives right to drive long-term sustainable improvements in services and for families.

Multiple impacts of worklessness and their effect on children's outcomes



Source: Department of Work and Pensions, [Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families](#)

- vii. In a [survey](#) by the National Children's Bureau, carried out in September 2017, 70% of Social Workers said the threshold for qualifying as a "child in need" had risen over the last three years and 60% said that the resources available to children's services influenced decisions about whether to offer early help.
- viii. In October 2017 the Local Government Association published [Bright Futures](#), predicting a £20 billion funding gap in Children's Services by 2020 and resulting cuts to preventative services. It proposed priorities for children's services partnerships to include stronger investment in early help, as shown in the figure below.

Local Government Association Recommends Strong Investment in Early Help

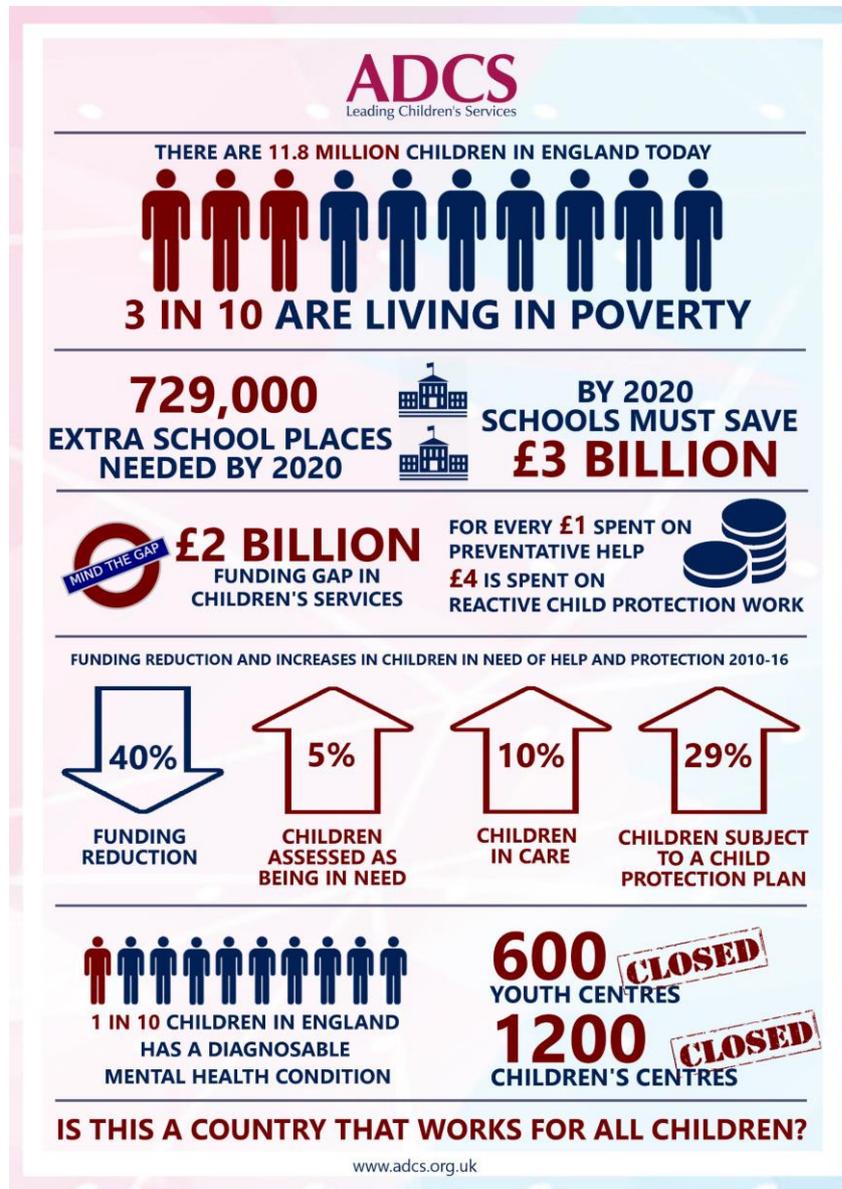
The infographic is a purple rectangle containing eight key recommendations, each marked with a yellow star icon. The recommendations are arranged in two columns. The text is white and yellow, providing a high-contrast, readable layout.

- A STRONGER FOCUS ON OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN**
All partners at a local and national level must keep a strong focus on the needs of children, young people and families.
- CONSISTENTLY STRONG LOCAL LEADERSHIP**
National and local bodies must do more to nurture consistently strong local leadership for children's services at all levels.
- A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**
Local and national government must work together to ensure that improved outcomes for children remain an ongoing priority, with improvement led by local government and subject to independent scrutiny.
- THE RIGHT SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AT THE RIGHT TIME**
Stronger investment in early help is vital to ensure that children and families can access the support they need when they need it.
- SUSTAINABLE FUNDING TO HELP CHILDREN THRIVE**
Local and national government must ensure that sustainable funding is available and used effectively to provide the vital services that children, young people and their families rely on.
- A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WORKS FOR CHILDREN**
Local and national government must develop a better understanding of 'what works' and 'what good looks like' for children's services.
- STRENGTHENED MORALE AND SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL WORKERS**
Local and national government must do more to showcase the excellent work of social work teams across the country, and support councils to recruit and retain high quality social workers.

Source: [Bright Futures](#), The Local Government Association

- ix. Also in October 2017, the Association of Directors of Children's Services published [A country that works for all children](#). It stated that *'the provision of early help services is being eroded by austerity'* and that need for early help and statutory services is increasing due to child poverty, welfare reforms and austerity. The paper called for a reaffirmation of the value of preventative services and the establishment of a cross-government review to understand better the reasons for, and links between, rising levels of child poverty and demand for children's statutory services.

Association of Directors of Children’s Services suggest links between austerity, poverty and demand for early help and statutory Children’s Services



Source: A Country that Works for All Children, Association of Directors of Children’s Services

- x. Published in July 2018, [Growing up neglected: a multi-agency response to older children](#), a joint report from Ofsted, HMI Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, the Care Quality Commission and HMI Probation, found that older neglected children do not always receive the support and protection they need. The report states:

‘Too often, local agencies are failing to spot the signs of neglect in older children. While neglect of young children is usually better identified, because the signs are more obvious, older children suffering the same abuse are slipping through the cracks’.

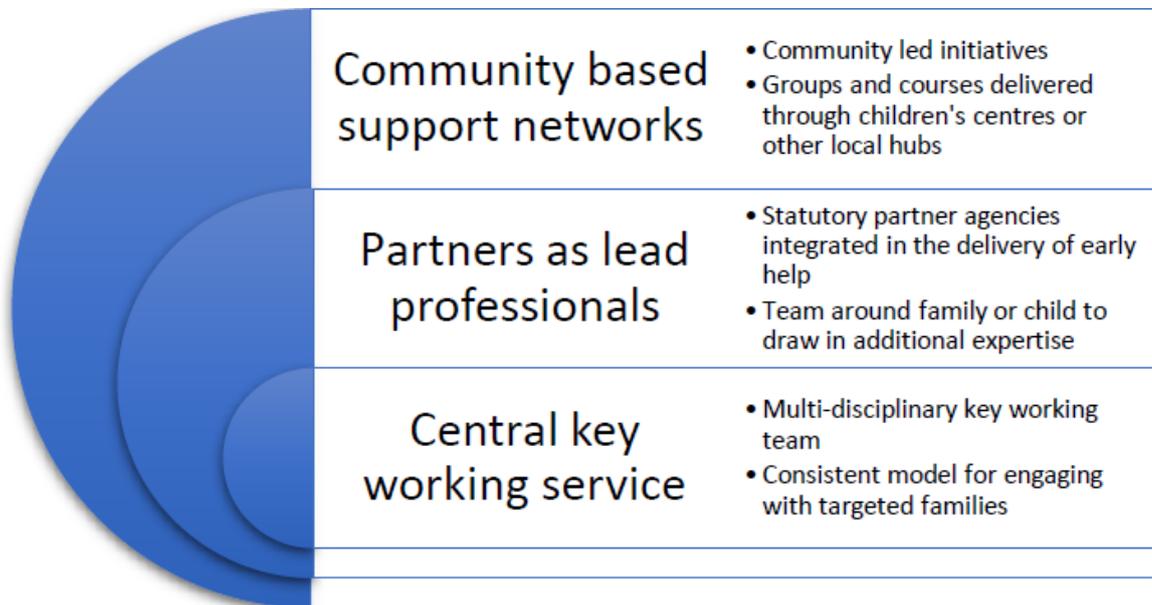
- xi. In October 2018, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced an enquiry into the funding and provision of local government children's services. The committee said spending on statutory children's services has increased by 3.2% between 2010-11 and 2016-17 but overall spending on children's services fell by 7% in the same period due to cuts for discretionary services such as Sure Start centres.
- xii. In November 2018 the Science and Technology Select Committee published the report of its enquiry into [evidence based early intervention](#). This recommended a new national strategy for early intervention, with an emphasis on adverse childhood experiences.
- xiii. In November 2018, the Local Government Association published [Bright Futures: one year on](#) reporting their partnership with the [Early Intervention Foundation](#) on a new early help resource pack. The Association has commissioned research on the factors that facilitate an effective early help offer, including how best to engage partner agencies and the community and voluntary sector in developing a joined up early help offer. The results of both pieces of work are expected in early 2019.
- xiv. Early help arrangements are inspected by Ofsted alongside social services in the [Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services](#). Criteria for services for children who need help and protection include the following for early help:

Children, young people and families are offered help when needs and/or concerns are first identified. The early help improves the child's situation and supports sustainable progress. The interface between early help and statutory work is clearly and effectively differentiated.

In the [Ofsted Annual Report](#), December 2018 Her Majesty's Chief Inspector commented that cuts to preventative and wider children's services, mean that local authorities are less able to intervene early, before young people need statutory services. *'The evidence suggests that these cuts to youth and other services are a false economy, simply leading to greater pressures elsewhere.'*

- xv. [Pressures on Children's Social Care](#) was published by the National Audit Office in January 2019. It states referrals to children's social care increased in line with population growth between 2010-11 and 2017-18, highlighting significant variation exists between local authorities in key elements of their children's social care services, the numbers of children in contact with social workers and taken into care, and the cost per child. The Local Government Association responded that "It is clear that the most urgent and pressing issue is not variability but the very real funding crisis facing vital children's services across the country, which face a funding gap of £3.1 bn by 2025." The Education Department, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and HM Treasury have commissioned external research which they hope will explain demand pressures and variation by summer 2019.

xvi. The Local Government Association commissioned the Isos Partnership to research the key enablers of effective early help partnerships. These were [published](#) in March 2019, as shown below:



xvii. In March 2019 House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts published [Transforming children's services](#). It concluded that the Department for Education still had not done enough to make the quality or finances of children's social care sustainable.

3.2 Troubled Families Programme

xviii. The [Troubled Families Programme](#) is the current national strategy for early help. It is a payment by results scheme for early help in which East Sussex participates. East Sussex expects to receive income of £1.68m in 2018/2019. This programme's priorities from 2015 to 2020 are:

National Troubled Family Programme Themes	East Sussex Troubled Families Themes
community and social behaviour	crime and anti-social behaviour
Education	missing education
children in need of help	children in need of help
employment and financial exclusion	worklessness and financial exclusion
healthy relationships	domestic violence and abuse
health and wellbeing	health and wellbeing

xix. In March 2019 the [National Evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015-2020](#) was published. The most striking finding was that the programme appears to have reduced the proportion of Looked After Children: 2.5% of the comparison group

were looked after compared to 1.7% of the programme group, a 32% difference for this cohort at 19-24 months after joining the programme. The impact on those on the programme is likely to have huge benefits to children's lives, contributes to managing children's social care pressures and provides significant savings.

- xx. We await confirmation that the Troubled Families Programme will continue from 2020, and details of the future programme's requirements and funding.

3.3 Youth services

- i. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, councils have statutory responsibilities to make sure, as far as possible, that there is sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people. Councils also have a responsibility for the wellbeing of all young people in their area. Funding of youth services is not mandatory and services are locally defined. Youth services can include informal and non-formal learning, safe spaces to meet friends, youth voice services, specialist support groups and sports and recreation facilities.
- ii. In 2017 the government consulted on its [Transforming children and young people's mental health provision](#) Green Paper. The resulting proposals were:
- To incentivise and support all schools and colleges to identify and train a Designated Senior Lead for mental health.
 - To fund new Mental Health Support Teams. The delivery models will be piloted from the end of 2019, ideas mentioned in the government's consultation response include schools-led and voluntary sector led.
 - To pilot a four week waiting time for access to specialist NHS children and young people's mental health services.
- iii. In November 2017 the Local Government Association published [Bright Futures: Our Vision for Youth Services](#), which recognised reductions in funding for youth services:
- 'This has had a particularly strong impact on the availability of open access, universal services, with provision increasingly targeted at those in greatest need. There is currently no clear national vision or policy around services for young people.'*
- iv. In May 2018, the YMCA published [Youth and Consequences](#), reporting a 60% reduction in funding for Youth Services over six years, and a resulting reduction in learning and development opportunities for young people outside school, suggesting links to increases in knife and other violent crime rates. It has called for youth work to be given statutory status. The Labour Party has committed to consult on doing so. [Data published by the trade union Unison](#) showed that 603 youth centres closed between 2012 and 2016.
- v. In August 2018, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport published its Civil Society Strategy [Building a future that works for everyone](#). The strategy includes a commitment by the government to undertake a review of statutory guidance for councils to provide 'appropriate local youth services'. The document states that the

review will provide *'greater clarity of the government's expectations, including the value added by good youth work'*. The Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Children's Services [welcomed the strategy's focus](#) on the positive contribution youth work can make to young people's life chances.

- vi. A [report](#) published in October 2018 by the [Education Policy Institute](#) states that the number of referrals to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) in England has increased by 26% over the past five years, and around 55,800 children under-18 did not meet the criteria for specialist treatment after being referred in 2017-18.
- vii. The All Party Parliamentary Group on the role and sufficiency of youth work [reported in October 2018](#). It recommended greater investment in youth support and clear guidance on the requirements under statutory duties for youth work.

3.4 Children's Centres

- i. Sure Start was introduced by the government in 1998 as a multi-departmental programme of early intervention for under-fours. In 2004 a ten year childcare strategy was based on delivery of services through children's centres. Children's centres had an increased focus on childcare and early years education, with services provided to the under-fives. The target was for 3,500 children's centres, one per community in England, by 2010.
- ii. The provision of early childhood services is part of the Council's general duty under section 1 Childcare Act 2006 to improve the wellbeing of young children, and to reduce inequalities between them in the following areas (section 2).
 - Physical and mental health and emotional well-being.
 - Protection from harm and neglect.
 - Education, training and recreation.
 - The contribution made by them to society.
 - Social and economic wellbeing.
- iii. In addition to this general duty, section 3(2) requires the Council to make arrangements to secure that the early childhood services in its area are provided in an integrated manner calculated to facilitate access and maximise the benefit of those services. In order to contribute to fulfilling these duties, section 5A of the Act requires councils to make arrangements so that there are sufficient children's centres, so far as reasonably practicable, to meet local need and defines a children's centre as a place or a group of places through which early childhood services are made available (either by providing the services on site, or by providing advice and assistance on gaining access to services elsewhere); and at which activities for young children are provided.
- iv. In relation to services provided by children's centres, section 5E places a further duty on councils, commissioners of local health and Jobcentre Plus to consider whether the early childhood services they provide should be provided through children's

centres in the area. Cabinet will note that the core purpose of children's centres is described by the statutory guidance to the Childcare Act 2006, to which Cabinet must have due regard, as being to improve outcomes for young children and their families and to reduce inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers in terms of:

- Child development and school readiness.
 - Parenting aspirations and parenting skills.
 - Child and family health and life chances.
- v. In addition to the duties under the Childcare Act 2006, Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places upon the Council (and its partners) a responsibility to discharge its functions in such a way that it safeguards and promotes the welfare of children. Section 17 Children Act 1989 also requires the Council to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need; and, so far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs.
- vi. In 2014 a cross party manifesto was published emphasising the importance of a child's first critical [1001](#) days.
- vii. In 2016 the Institute of Health Visiting's [The Economics of Health Visiting](#) showed that early years interventions, such as those covered by the universal health visiting service, deliver both social and economic benefits, including reducing long-term costs and improving outcomes, as well as increasing the economic productivity of the population.
- viii. In 2016 an All Part Parliamentary Committee recommended the development of children's centres into family hubs under the expected Life Chances Strategy. This Strategy was never published and has been cancelled.
- ix. In April 2018 a [report by the Sutton Trust](#) estimated that 1,000 children's centres have closed since 2009.
- x. In May 2018, the [Science and Technology Select Committee](#) heard from Health Minister Jackie Doyle-Price that the government believes in a localised approach on early intervention, rather than central government prescription, "*because local leaders can respond best to their particular circumstances*". Children's Minister Nadhim Zahawi told the committee that councils are not closing buildings in the areas with the greatest need; some local authorities are now using children's centres differently, focusing on the most disadvantaged areas, with "*much better outcomes*" as a result:

"Local authorities have felt, actually, we can take that investment out of bricks and mortar and put it into direct outreach, where we knock on the doors of the neediest families, who may never come into a building run by government, get into their homes and give them the confidence to interact with us or our partners in health."

- xi. In July 2018, the Education Secretary Damian Hinds announced plans for schools to bid for a share of a £30m funding pot to develop nursery facilities to increase their pre-school pupil numbers. Hinds said schools will be invited to run projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to close the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their more affluent peers. It followed [Department for Education](#) research showing that more than a quarter of four and five-year-olds lack the early communication and literacy skills expected by the end of reception year.
- xii. In August 2018 the Department for Education confirmed the planned government consultation on the future of children's centres had been shelved indefinitely. Instead, the government is to focus on implementing its education action plan, [Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential](#). The government will also focus on its early years social mobility peer review programme. This launched in April and will be rolled out from this autumn to spread good practice in early years.
- xiii. [Official statistics on planned spending](#) published by the Department for Education in September 2018 show spending on children's centres and services for under-fives reducing by £30.8m from £661.3m to £630.4m in the financial year 2018/2019. In December 2018 confirmed local authorities [spending figures for 2017/2018](#) showed spending on children's centres had fallen by £110m over the last financial year, a reduction of more than 14 per cent.
- xiv. [Pressures on Children's Social Care](#) was published by the National Audit Office in January 2019. It states that where local authorities have closed children's centres it has not resulted in increased statutory children's social care activity. For those local authorities which had closed centres there was a slight fall in the number of child protection plans in future years.

3.5 Children's Commissioner

- i. The Children's Commissioner for England is a statutory independent role which promotes and protects the rights of children, especially the most vulnerable, and stands up for their views and interests. In July 2017 the Children's Commissioner's [Report on Vulnerability](#) found:
 - Over half a million children so vulnerable that the state has to step in.
 - 670,000 children in England growing up in 'high risk' family situations.
 - Thousands of children living with adults in treatment for drink or drugs.
 - 800,000 children suffering from mental health difficulties.
 - Tens of thousands of children involved with gangs.
 - Many more children under the radar, not being seen.
- ii. In June 2018 the Commissioner's report on [Public Spending on Children in England from 2000 to 2020](#) reported that:

- Almost half of the £8.6 billion children's services budget in England is spent on 73,000 children in the care system, leaving the remaining half to cover 11.7 million children.
 - The overall level of public spending on children has been maintained over the last 20 years, but 72% of children's services budgets are now spent on those in severe need.
 - Mainstream and acute services, such as 4-16 education and support for children in care, are protected at the expense of targeted preventative services.
 - Spending on prevention and youth services has been cut by 60% over the last decade.
- iii. In July 2018 the Commissioner reported on [Estimating the impact of the 'toxic trio'](#) (also known as the 'trigger trio'). The report states that many children requiring social care live in households with a toxic environment combining domestic abuse, parental substance misuse and parental mental illness. It uses data from a 2014 mental health survey of adults to calculate an estimate of the trigger trio's prevalence. The commissioner's analysis concluded that 420,000 children and young people under 18 are in homes where all three trigger trio issues are present to a "moderate" or "severe" extent. This is 3.6% of the child population in England.
- iv. In September 2018 the Children's Commissioner recommended that the government properly define councils' [minimum statutory duties](#) as they make cuts to services, suggesting that there should be a universal threshold for 'child in need'.
- v. In October 2018 the Commissioner's [report on vulnerable babies](#) estimated that there are 15,800 babies under the age of 1 considered by local authorities to be vulnerable or highly vulnerable and at risk of harm, but still living at home.

3.6 Early Intervention Foundation

- i. The Early Intervention Foundation collects evidence on the effectiveness of early interventions with families to prevent negative outcomes for children and young people and avoid the fiscal and economic costs of responding to those. In its 2015 report [Spending on Late Intervention](#), it found that local and national government in England and Wales spends nearly £17 billion a year on responding to social issues affecting young people, such as child abuse and neglect, unemployment and youth crime. £6.5 billion is spent by local authorities.
- ii. A jointly commissioned report, [Social and Emotional Learning](#), published in March 2015, by the Early Intervention Foundation, the Cabinet Office and the Social Mobility Commission added to the evidence on the strong links between social and emotional skills in children and how they fare as adults. The evidence indicates that children with well-developed social and emotional skills have a better chance of being happy and healthy adults than those who are only academically able.

- iii. The Foundation's October 2018 Report [*Realising the potential of early intervention*](#) set out a case for early intervention and a recommended action plan at national and local levels. Local actions included clear local vision based on the benefits of early intervention and evidence based decision-making and practice.

- iv. In March 2019, the Early Intervention Foundation [published guidance](#) on evaluating early help systems. It acknowledged the difficulty in assessing the effect of early intervention as part of a universal offer or with families with additional needs.

4. East Sussex context

4.1 East Sussex Partnership Strategies

- i. The East Sussex Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy includes a [strategic priority to 2026](#) which early help services help to deliver:

Our strategic priority for 2026 is to ensure children and young people are well cared for, have healthy life styles, achieve their potential, and grow into confident, empowered, responsible adults - able to contribute to the economic prosperity of the county

Our key tasks (listed below) are integrated into the themes.

Underpinning them will be improving the way that agencies work together through the Children's Trust to identify and respond, in an integrated way, to the needs of children and young people and their families; and shifting resources to prevention and early identification and increase the range of family support services available

- Improve access to services, especially in rural areas
 - Help children and young people to make healthy lifestyle choices and
 - reduce health inequalities
 - Reduce teenage conception rates across the county
 - Protect children and young people from harm
 - Reduce bullying towards children and young people wherever it occurs
 - Improve support to children and young people on the edge of care, especially vulnerable teenagers
 - Establish integrated services for children under 5 and their families through a network of children's centres and increase take up and quality of early years education
 - Provide positive activities for children and young people and to increase opportunities for children and young people to be involved and participate in decisions which affect them and their communities
 - Tackle youth homelessness, and provide better housing and housing related support for young people
 - Reduce child poverty by 2011 and eradicate it by 2020
- ii. The strategy for children and young people is delivered via the East Sussex Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) a partnership body supporting the Council's duty for multi-agency working in children's services. The Trust aims to improve outcomes for children and young people, particularly those who are vulnerable to poor outcomes. Its [CYPT plan](#) includes the following objectives:

Improving the school readiness of children at all transition stages

Helping more parents enter, sustain and progress in work

Improving the quality of life of low income families in other ways where possible

Ensuring effective early help and safeguarding for children and young people

Improving support to children, young people and families to help maintain and enhance emotional well-being and mental health

- iii. The Director of Public Health published the [State of Child Health Report](#) 2017/18. The report makes only one recommendation, related to a focus on preventative services, which is directly relevant to early help:

*'To continue to implement the key actions agreed by partners as outlined in each chapter, and in doing so ensure a **focus on prevention**, as almost all poor outcomes are preventable, and on reducing inequalities, as the majority of poor outcomes have a relationship to deprivation.'*

- iv. The [East Sussex Needs and Assets Profile 2017](#) produced by Public Health is used to inform decisions about services affecting health outcomes, which include early help services. The key findings relevant to early help needs, with indicators at district and borough level, are included in the early help Needs Assessment.
- v. The East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board is made up of senior representatives from all the organisations in East Sussex involved in protecting or promoting the welfare of children. It's priorities are to strengthen the multi-agency response to child exploitation, to strengthen safeguarding in schools and to strengthen the multi-agency response to children affected by domestic abuse.

4.2 The Thrive Programme

- i. In 2012/13 the [Thrive Programme](#) was commissioned to develop early help services in East Sussex to avoid projected rises in social care costs. The Thrive Programme worked closely with partners on an Early Help Strategy which implemented new keywork capacity and new multi-agency working practices including the Continuum of Need.
- ii. The cost of Children's Social Care decreased by £4.7m (8%) from £56.6m to £51.9m from 2011/12 to 2014/15. In 2015 the independent closing evaluation found evidence of the sustained impact of investment and change activities and achievement of goals:
 - A more skilled and confident workforce, e.g. able to manage risk and lead multi-agency working.
 - Positive outcomes for families receiving early help.
 - Reduced demand for high cost services.

4.3 Partnership projects relevant to early help

- i. In January 2017 Hastings was designated an Education Opportunity Area by the Department for Education. The two year [Hastings Opportunities Area](#) programme is building partnerships between early year's providers, schools, colleges, universities, businesses, charities and local authorities to ensure that all children in Hastings are given the best possible start in order to reach their full potential. The programme also aims to help build teaching and leadership within schools and improve young people's access to the right advice and experiences, employers and higher education.
- ii. East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are currently delivering a Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services [Transformation Plan](#). The CCGs are working collaboratively with the Council, children and young people, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust, NHS England, and other statutory and voluntary sector partners. Initiatives include:
 - Implementing a dedicated Community Eating Disorders service.
 - Increasing perinatal mental health provision across East Sussex.
 - Expanding the primary mental health workforce in the county.
 - Supporting young people in crisis.
 - Strengthening mental health expertise to support vulnerable groups.
 - Reviewing current online and digital resources.

4.4 Serious Case Reviews

- i. Under the statutory guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#), serious case reviews are carried out after the death of a child from abuse or neglect, to improve

practice of local professionals and organisations. In East Sussex, the Local Safeguarding Children Board combined [learning from national serious case reviews 2011-2014](#) in November 2017, reporting on cumulative and interacting risk of harm due to parental behaviours, and the prevalence of domestic abuse, mental ill health and substance misuse in these cases.

4.5 Council Plan from 2019/20

- i. The [Children's Services Portfolio Plan](#) to 2019/2020 describes the overriding principle to work, with partners, with the right children and families, in the right way for the right amount of time to bring about change, helping to create a stable environment in which children can thrive and helping families to develop resilience and coping strategies to avoid public service dependency. Individual and community responsibility is described as of fundamental importance in helping Children's Services manage demand.
- ii. The [Council Plan 2019/2020](#) sets out four overarching priority outcomes: driving sustainable economic growth; keeping vulnerable people safe; helping people help themselves and making best use of resources. It describes the Council's focus on providing people with the support they need as early as possible, which should mean that people don't need care services as much. It describes an effective multi-agency early help system as one of the Council's key objectives and states that:

'We will review and reshape the early help offer in line with available resources to identify the best early help services to provide in future to increase the resilience of families, improve their lives, and manage demand on high cost services.

Consideration will be given to working with fewer families and focusing our support on those families most at risk of social care interventions and the problems that are most likely to lead to a crisis.

We will target services working with individual families on a whole family basis, with a single keyworker supporting all members of the family and coordinating any additional specialist support required. We will work with partners to help young people develop their resilience. We work in partnership to reduce crime.'

- iii. The Council's Core Offer of services is supporting the Council's planning for how best to deploy funding in the Medium Term Financial Plan to 2021/2022. It sets out the ambitious but realistic level of service the Council must provide to both fulfil statutory duties and meet local need in the current financial climate. It includes an Early Help Service for 0-19 year olds where it helps to manage the demand for higher cost services, including an integrated service with Health Visitors for 0-5 year olds.

5. List of references

Title of reference or report	Organisation or author	Date of publication / implementation	Internet link
Early Intervention: The Next Steps	HM Government	January 2011	Link
Munro Review of Child Protection	Department for Education	May 2011	Link
Working together to safeguard children 2018	Department for Education	Jul 2018	Link
Children Act 2004	National legislation	2004	Link
Early help services: how well are they meeting children's needs?	Ofsted	Mar 2015	Link
Early intervention funding faces 70% cut	The Children's Society	Mar 2016	Link
Improving Lives; Helping Workless Families	Department for Work and Pensions	Apr 2017	Link
Survey of Social Workers	National Children's Bureau	September 2017	Link
Bright Futures – getting the best for children, young people and families	Local Government Association	Oct 2017	Link
A country that works for all children	The Association of Directors of Children's Services	Oct 2017	Link
Growing up neglected: a multi-agency response to older children	Ofsted, CQC, HMPPS, HMICFRS	Jul 2018	Link
Evidence-based early years intervention	House of Commons Science and Technology Committee	May 2018	Link
Bright Futures One Year On	Local Government Association	November 2018	Link
Inspection of Local Authorities Children's Services	Ofsted	2018	Link
Ofsted Annual Report	Ofsted	December 2018	Link
Pressure on Children's Social Care	National Audit Office	January 2019	Link
The key enablers of developing an effective partnership-based early help offer	Isos Partnership	March 2019	Link
Transforming children's services	Committee of Public Accounts	March 2019	Link

Title of reference or report	Organisation or author	Date of publication / implementation	Internet link
Evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme Interim Findings	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	Mar 2018	Link
National Evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015-2020	DfE	March 2019	Link
Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision:	Dept for Health & Social Care, DfE	Jul 2018	Link
Bright Futures: our vision for youth services	Local Government Association	Nov 2017	Link
Youth & Consequences	YMCA	May 2018	Link
Civil Society Strategy: building a future that works for everyone	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	Aug 2018	Link
Civil Society Strategy: Council leaders welcome youth work focus (article)	Children & Young People Now website	Aug 2018	Link
Access to children and young people's mental health services 2018	Education Policy Institute	October 2018	Link
Parliamentary Inquiry on the role and sufficiency of youth work	All Party Parliamentary Group for Youth Affairs	May 2018	Link
Childcare Act 2006	Government legislation	2006	Link
1001 Critical Days manifesto	Cross party manifesto (third sector website)	Oct 2013	Link
The Economics of Health Visiting: a universal preventative child and family health promotion programme	Institute of Health Visiting	Dec 2016	Link
Stop Start (report into what has happened to Children's Centres)	The Sutton Trust	Apr 2018	Link
Early years foundation stage profile results: 2016 to 2017 (statistics)	Department for Education	Oct 2017	Link
Unlocking Talent: Improving social mobility through education	Department for Education	Dec 2017	Link

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Children's Commissioner's Report on Vulnerability	Children's Commissioner	Jul 2017	Link
Public Spending on Children: 2000 to 2020	Children's Commissioner	Jun 2017	Link
Estimating the prevalence of the 'toxic trio'	Children's Commissioner	Jul 2018	Link
Vulnerability of Babies	Children's Commissioner	October 2018	Link
Children's Commissioner demands clarity on councils' duties (article)	Public Finance	Sep 2018	Link
Spending on late intervention: how we can do better for less	Early Intervention Foundation	Feb 2015	Link
Social and Emotional Learning: Skills for life and work	Led by the Early Intervention Foundation	Mar 2015	Link
Realising the Potential of Early Intervention	Early Intervention Foundation	October 2018	Link
Evaluating Early Help	Early Intervention Foundation	March 2019	Link
ESSP Sustainable Community Strategy Summary	East Sussex Strategic Partnership	To 2026	Link
Children and Young People's Plan	East Sussex Children and Young People's Trust	2015 - 2018	Link
The State of Child Health in East Sussex	East Sussex Director of Public Health	2017/18	Link
Local Needs and Assets Profiles	East Sussex Public Health	2017 (Latest)	Link
THRIVE Programme Review	ESCC	Sep 2015	Link
ESCC Council Plan 2018/19	ESCC	2018/19	Link
Hastings Opportunity Area (website for info)	HOA	current	Link
Children and Young People Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Local Transformation Plan	East Sussex CCGs and partners	To 2020	Link
Learning from Reviews (presentation)	Local Safeguarding Children Board	Nov 2017	Link
ESCC Children's Services Portfolio Plan	ESCC	2018/19 – 2020/21	Link

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Pressures on Children's Social Care	National Audit Office	January 2019	Link



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September 2019