

Cumberland Early Help Assessment Training – Pre-course Reading

Important

Please read and understand all of the information below before you attend the Cumberland Early Help Assessment Training, it will support your understanding of the aims of Early Help and the Early Help Assessment Process. Much of the policy, procedures and guidance that govern work with children and families is changing.

Overview

The aim of this training is to increase knowledge and enable practitioners to work more effectively with children, young people and their families using Early Help, and identify needs early to give all children the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

This training will focus on how to complete a good quality Early Help Assessment to ensure it is thorough and robust to meet the needs of children and their families.

Sessions times

Early Help training will start at 9:30am, (please arrive 15 minutes before), and finish at 3.30pm. Some venues will have tea, coffee and water provided and some will not, please see below for details. Please bring your own snacks and lunch as not all venues will have somewhere close by to buy food. There will be a lunch break of 30 minutes.

Address details and Parking

Venues - South	Address	Parking	Refreshments	Other information
The Whitehaven Academy	South - Drama Studio -The Whitehaven Academy, Cleator Moor Road, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 8TY	Parking is in the car park adjacent to the building; there are disabled parking places if required. There is a one-way system, please use CA28 8TU on satnav, as this brings you to the entrance. As you come along the entrance road, you will see some tennis courts on the left and the entrance to the car park is just after the courts. To access the building, go to Main Reception and press the green button on the panel to the right of the doors.	Tea, coffee, and water will be provided. Make own arrangements for food.	Any attendees who do not have a valid DBS check will need to be escorted in the building and wear a different coloured lanyard to denote this.

Allerdale House	Allerdale House New Bridge Road, Workington CA14 3YJ.	Free parking when you Log your vehicle registration on arrival.	Tea, coffee, and water will be provided.	Make own arrangements for food
The Lakes College	South - SEN Centre, Lakes College West Cumbria, Workington CA14 4JN	Free parking in collage car park. Enter building via main entrance to sign in.	To be confirmed.	College has a café where you can purchase drinks and food

Venues - North	Address	Parking	Refreshments	Other information
Carlisle College	Victoria Place, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA1 1HS	Various car parks nearby. Various charges apply and various methods of payment apply.	Tea, coffee, and water will be provided. Make own arrangements for food	Some refreshments available from college refectory during lunch, this is full catered, but you will need to pay for food.
Cathedral Room	Civic Centre - Cathedral Room, Rickergate, Carlisle CA3 8QG	Various car parks nearby. Various charges apply and various methods of payment apply. Enter Civic Centre via main entrance.	Tea, coffee, and water will be provided.	Make own arrangements for food
Cumbria House	117 Botchergate, Carlisle CA1 1RD.	Charges Apply. Closest Car Park: Cecil St Car Park, 12 Aglionby St, Carlisle CA1 1NX. (Staff only parking at Cumbria House). Enter Cumbria House via main entrance on Botchergate.	Tea, coffee, and water will be provided.	Make own arrangements for food

A summary of learning from the Supporting Families (formerly Troubled Families) Programme, (July 2025)

- For early help to be effective, it must not be seen as a service, but a system and a way of working. It works best when there is joint responsibility and accountability.
- The programme has demonstrated the importance of stepping in early, to help families and prevent issues from escalating.
- The programme has emphasized data maturity alongside practice transformation to effect meaningful and sustained improvements across the system for babies, children, young people, and families.
- A system of support for families has been shown to be more effective when based on relationships, partnerships, and collaboration.
- Whole family working is a cornerstone for creating lasting change.
- Measuring both need and outcomes have benefitted understanding and improvement across the system.

Working together to safeguard children DfE December 2026

[Working together to safeguard children 2026](#)

“Nothing is more important than children’s welfare. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and loving home. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support.

This requires individuals, agencies, and organisations to be clear about their own and each other’s roles and responsibilities, and how they work together.”

Please read **Sections 1 and 2 in detail** as it outlines the importance of Early Help and will explain why we have reviewed the Early Help paperwork, processes and training this year.

Please familiarise yourself with the information found via the hyperlinks below

Early Help web page via CSCP

[Early Help | Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

This is where you will find all of the information that will aid you in your support for children and families. Please familiarise yourself with content of these pages.

Family Help and Prevention Strategy 2024-2027

[Family Help and Prevention Strategy 2024-2027](#)

Press ‘Refresh’ if document does not appear. This is a relatively short document that sets out how we will make the right help and support available, at the right time, for all our families to build confident, healthy, and thriving communities across all of Cumberland.

Early Help Assessment Guidance for External Partners of Cumberland Council, (will not be on web page in time for training session on 07-11-25)

[Early Help Assessments \(EHA\) | Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

This guidance document has been developed to support practitioners external to Cumberland Council with the Early Help Assessment process to ensure a high-quality, timely service to children, young people, and their families.

It has been developed from feedback from practitioners supporting children and families in Cumberland. It links to the internal standards our children’s workforce adheres to but acknowledges the way you work alongside children and families if different.

Please read this guidance thoroughly, it will take you through all areas of Early Help.

Early Help – Partnership and Assurance Team

[Early Help - Contact, Consultancy, Advice and Guidance | Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Details of your Early Help Area Officers and a brief overview of the Early Help - Consultancy, Advice and Guidance they can offer.

Early Help Assessment Processes

[Early Help Assessment Processes.pdf \(PDF, 407.6KB\)](#)

This document explains the process of initiating an Early Help Assessment, (also noted in guidance above).

Consent

[Early Help Assessment Consent for Information Sharing and Storage 2025.docx \(DOCX, 47.15KB\)](#)

[Privacy Notice - Family Help - Partnership and Assurance.pdf \(PDF, 162.1KB\)](#)

Early Help is consent based, and all Early Help work should be undertaken in an open and honest way. This means the families should know why Early Help is being recommended and who information might be shared, how it is stored and how they can access this. These documents outline this.

Information Sharing

[DfE non statutory information sharing advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services for children, young people, parents and carers](#)

Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance

[Cumberland Threshold Guidance 2026](#) and [Understanding the Level of Need and Practice Response 2026](#)

Early Help Assessment Chronology

[Early Help Assessment Chronology .docx \(DOCX, 423.97KB\)](#)

Chronologies are a vital tool for practitioners working with children and their families, supporting practice in a number of different ways. They are crucial to:

- capture significant events in the child and family's life.
- consider the child's felt and lived experience.
- understand the source of actual and potential harm impacting on children and young people.
- identify protective factors and to decide next steps for intervention in a range of contexts.

Family Help Networks

[Family Help Networks.pdf \(PDF, 659.17KB\)](#)

Networks are a group of people who you have any form of relationship with.

Supporting Families

[Supporting Families – Whole Family Working: Informing Future System Reform Annual report of the Supporting Families programme 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

The Families First Partnership (FFP) March 2026

Programme Guide Delivery expectations for statutory safeguarding partners in England: Year 2 (2026 to 2027)

[FFP Programme guide: delivery expectations for statutory safeguarding partners in England: year 2 \(2026 to 2027\)](#)

The 2026-27 Families First Partnership (FFP) programme guide has been produced to support statutory safeguarding partners¹ to implement Family Help and multi-agency child protection reforms and increase support for family networks. The rollout of these reforms represents a significant step forward in delivering the government's mission to provide children with the best start in life and break down barriers to opportunity.

Additionally

Please ensure you are signed up to CSCP newsletters and five-minute briefings. <https://cumberlandsafeguardingchildren.co.uk/sign-our-newsletters-and-5-minute-briefings>

We look forward to seeing you on the training.

Cumberland Family Help – Partnership and Assurance Team, (Early Help Team).