



Right Help,  
Right Time



# Local Early Help Pilot

## One minute guide

### Local Early Help Pilot

The Local Early Help pilot will take place in the North East mini cluster (map on reverse). It will build on the current Early Help Services that are provided in Tower Hamlets.

Early Help is everybody's business. The pilot will bring together Children Centres, Health Visiting, Midwives, Schools, Parenting and Family Support Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Community and Voluntary Sector organisations and local youth provision to ensure a better coordinated service for families.

### Terminology

Partners use a variety of language to describe geographical areas in Tower Hamlets. Children's centres use the term 'Mini-Cluster'. Health and other partners use the term 'Localities'.

Throughout this document and the pilot,

'Mini clusters' and 'Localities' will be used interchangeably.

### Early Help

Early Help is the term used by agencies in Tower Hamlets to describe our approach to providing support to potentially vulnerable children, young people and their families as soon as problems start to emerge. Although research shows that the biggest impact can be made during a child's early years, Early Help is not just for very young children, as problems may emerge at any point throughout pregnancy, childhood and adolescence. Children and families are entitled to early help if and when they need it.

### The pilot has two work streams

- Embedding greater partnership working across Early Help services to ensure that referrals go to the right teams so that families access support at the appropriate level in a timely way.
- Promoting and embedding the foundations for early language acquisition.



Grow well  
in Tower Hamlets



Integrated  
Early Years' Service  
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## **Working in a Mini Cluster**

Mini clusters are organised around universal services such as schools and children's centres, and incorporate the range of services available to families in each local area.

Mini cluster working arrangements ensure that families are offered the right intervention at the right time, as early as possible in the life of a problem, to prevent issues escalating. A delay can result in poor outcomes for the family.

## **How will the virtual mini cluster team work with families?**

With our partners, using a restorative approach, the pilot will provide a local model of support for children and families from pre-conception. It will link high quality schools and early year's provision with social and health support for children and their families, to improve outcomes.

Effective early language acquisition supports education, health, wellbeing, mental health and life course outcomes for children. Research tells us that children who thrive in their early years achieve better outcomes at school and experience greater success later in life.

One of the key factors for success in school is fluency in English. Our aim is to improve early language acquisition in the child's home language and in English. Effective support will ensure that all children across the borough develop the skills needed to access education, achieve good mental health, develop positive relationships and secure economic opportunities in adulthood.

Our intention is to kick-start a system change to improve education and health outcomes through early intervention including early language acquisition. Research indicates that a good start pre-

conception through parental health and in the early years is critical to children's language development, wellbeing, mental health and success in later life.

## **What are the benefits of mini cluster working?**

Mini Cluster working enables local practitioners to build good working relationships in order to provide effective integrated services for the families in their area.

Organising services around a mini cluster focuses awareness of the resources that are available when responding to specific needs. Mini clusters can then organise their resources more effectively by identifying the agencies that are best placed to offer a service, ensuring families receive the right support at the right time at the earliest opportunity.

The building of effective working relationships helps to facilitate information sharing where appropriate, and also provides forums in which issues of risk can be assessed and responded to. This is a key aspect of safeguarding, and something which is important for us get right.

## **What are the outcomes?**

Children's services and key partners aim to provide a locally coordinated, whole system model of support for children and families. Through the Early Help localities, school and early years' provision can co-operate more effectively with partners across the Borough to ensure better support for families.

## **What is the Top 100 methodology?**

This term describes a way for staff in clusters to identify and prioritise those families most at risk of poor outcomes.

## Where is the North East Mini Cluster?

We have a joint passion: we believe that together we will improve social mobility by breaking the link between poverty, poor health, low educational attainment and negative life course outcomes. A key part of this obsession is to provide early help and improve early language acquisition to increase school readiness and safeguard children's wellbeing. With partners, we will use the 'the top 100 methodology'.

## What is top 100 Methodology?

This term describes a way for staff in clusters to identify and prioritise those families most at risk of poor outcomes.

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