



Early Help at iCollege

Early help means identifying needs and providing help for children and young adults, early on, to prevent future problems and help them achieve their potential.

Across West Berkshire this is done by:

- *Identifying emotional or behavioural concerns, mental health problems or substance dependencies and providing support services to prevent problems arising in future.*
- *Identifying physical, sensory or mental impairments and finding ways to help them function to the best of their ability.*
- *Providing support to financially disadvantaged children and their families to make sure they reach their potential*
- *Providing staff with the relevant documents and information to assist in accurately identifying children's individual needs.*

What services does it cover?

- *Children's Centres*
- *School nurses*
- *Parenting and family support*
- *Youth Service*
- *Youth Justice Support Team (YJST)*
- *Emotional Health Academy*
- *Young People's Substance Misuse (Via-The Edge)*
- *Integrated working processes*

Alongside external services, iCollege also provides in-house support through our own Family School Support Worker (FSSW) and a qualified counsellor as part of our Early Help offer.

There has been considerable work on-going to coordinate the excellent early help work that is happening for children, young people and their families across West Berkshire. As part of this there is a recognition that schools play a major role in providing early help. To support this there are a number of initiatives to ensure that there are the tools, advice and professional guidance to empower families to resolve their issues.

The 'Early Help Plan', has been introduced as part of the 'early help' offer.

These documents provide an overview of the resources available when working with families and recognises that families often need more support but do not require a social worker. There is also the recognition that it is more effective to involve families, speaking to them about their difficulties and working together on their support plan.

The aim is that this will make it easier for staff and partner organisations to support children and their families through early help.

The 'Early Help Plan' is an important part of the early help offer.

At iCollege, the Designated Safeguarding Lead oversees all 'Early Help Plans', with meetings led or attended by the DSL, DDSLs, or the Family Support Worker (FSW).

For further information please refer to:

The Early Response hub

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/42224/The-Early-Response-Hub>

West Berkshire Directory

Information and guidance, as well as local groups, activities, and services in the area.

<https://directory.westberks.gov.uk/>