



STOCKPORT EARLY HELP STRATEGY

2024-2027



FOREWORD

Chris McLoughlin OBE

Executive Director People and Neighbourhoods and Director of Children's Services

As leaders in the field of education, health and care, we recognise the importance of collaborative efforts required to create the right conditions for families to access information, advice and help as soon as they need it. We are delighted to present the Stockport Early Help Strategy which is part of a suite of strategies to deliver on Stockport's Children and Young People's plan. It outlines our joint commitment across the Stockport Family Partnership to early intervention and help in supporting all children, young people and their families to thrive in the communities they live, learn and play.

This strategy builds on our existing early help offer, and as we refresh the strategy, we celebrate the work that has already been done in Stockport and will continue to take forward our restorative approach and principles in all that we do.

Cllr Wendy Meikle

Cabinet Member for Children Families and Education

The strategy is fully in line with the joint aspirations and approach to the delivery of One Stockport: One Future and the Borough Plan and Stockport's Children and Young Peoples Plan. At its core is the spirit of collaboration, inclusion, equality and community. We know that we will have the biggest impact on improving lives when we work together across public services, businesses and communities. Every child is unique. Stockport Council's commitment is to provide flexible services that respect individual wishes and meet individual needs. The approach will empower families and enhance outcomes. Our combined workforce plays a pivotal role; therefore, we are dedicated to developing a skilled workforce that strives for excellence through continuous learning, professional development, and a passion for making a difference.

INTRODUCTION

This strategy is for children, young people aged 0-19 (25 with SEND) and their families. The early help strategy sets out the strategic priorities to ensure all children and young people thrive to achieve their potential.

ONE STOCKPORT ONE FUTURE

Stockport is an ambitious place undergoing a spectacular transformation. A place to work and play, with green space and lots of culture on our doorstep, with excellent connections to Greater Manchester, London and the Peak District. It is a place where residents, businesses and communities work together to make good things happen and get people support when they need it.

But Stockport is not immune from the big challenges of our times. The challenges facing us are big. They will take time. That is why One Stockport: One Future looks ahead to 2040. We want to ensure that Stockport is a place that is resilient to whatever changes and opportunities will come in the future.

One Stockport: One Future is the next phase of our borough plan. It sets out how we will work together to tackle the challenges we face, so Stockport can be the best place to live happy and healthy lives, a place where anything is possible, a place that everyone, right across the Borough can be proud of. It is embedded into our Council Plan and will be delivered through our organisational and partnership strategies.

DELIVERING 5 BIG THINGS TOGETHER

To achieve our shared vision to ‘make Stockport the best place to live happy and healthy lives’, we must have a relentless focus on the biggest challenges facing our borough:-

- **Fair and inclusive – making Stockport a great, diverse place to live, where everyone can thrive**
- **Climate Action Now – creating a ‘green print’ for Stockport so it is a climate friendly place to live, work, play and invest.**

No one thing or organisation can address these challenges alone. One Stockport: One Future is a collective call to action to work together to deliver the ‘5 big things’ we believe will transform our borough over the next 15 years to help us achieve our shared vision.

The role of the Early Help Strategy in delivering:

ONE STOCKPORT ONE FUTURE

The 5 big things are crucial to creating the right conditions so that all children, young people and families can thrive.

They can only be achieved if we all work together. Our Early Help Strategy provides a strategic framework for the delivery of One Stockport: One Future through the lens of children, young people and families who may need additional help to thrive.

The Early Help Strategy has a particular focus on our ambition to be 'the best place to grow up', 'best health and care' and 'thriving neighbourhoods' but also contributes to the delivery of the other big things.

1

Good Jobs and Homes



2

The Best Place to Grow Up



3

Best Health and Care



4

Thriving Neighbourhoods



5

Clean, Green Transport



The Children and Young People Plan, the Neighbourhood and Prevention Programme and the Early Help Strategy

The Early Help Strategy is one of a suite of documents that contributes to the delivery of the Children and Young People Plan 2024-2027 and Stockport's Neighbourhood and Prevention programme.

The Children and Young People Plan identifies seven Big Ambitions. This refreshed Early Help Strategy will be a key role in the successful delivery of the Children and Young Peoples Plan through its particular focus on Ambition 5.

Ambition 1

All the services that work with children and families work together to ensure families get the help they need when they need it, and children and young people are safe and supported by their family networks

Ambition 2

Working together with families and communities, all children have the best start in life and are ready for school at the end of reception.

Ambition 3

All children and young people can access and engage in education and achieve the best they can;

Ambition 4

Children and families with SEND receive the best possible support at the right time to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved;

Ambition 5

All children, young people and families have access to a clear and inclusive early help offer;

Ambition 6

All children and young people enjoy good emotional health and wellbeing and can access co-ordinated robust and timely support based on need;

Ambition 7

Children in care and care leavers have stable and loving homes and are equipped with the skills needed to live a fulfilling, successful and rewarding life.

The ambition for the Neighbourhood and Prevention programme is to bring together services, organisations and groups in neighbourhoods. It is all about people and place through:

Creating vibrant, clean and safe places where people can socialise, make friends and access a range of culture, sport and leisure activities

Joining up public services through working together and alongside local people as a single team.

Early intervention by making it easier to get help at an earlier stage, reducing the need for crisis interventions

Working with the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSFE) to enable communities to use their knowledge, skills and assets.

Reducing inequalities and ensuring every neighbourhood can thrive.

This Early Help Strategy is a key element of Stockport's Neighbourhood and Prevention Programme to create the enabling conditions for early help, at the right time in the communities where children and families live, learn, work and play.

OUR VISION IN STOCKPORT

Our overarching ambition for Stockport is “to be the best place to live happy and healthy lives. We want to create a place where anything is possible, a place that everyone right across the Borough can be proud of:”

ONE STOCKPORT ONE FUTURE

Our vision for children and families is key to achieving this ambition

“Our vision is for all children and young people to have the best start in life. We want all children and young people to be happy, prepared for adulthood and able to achieve their goals. We want families to feel supported, confident, resilient and connected to their community”

To support this vision, we have co-designed seven I Statements with parents, carers and young people. These Statements underpin work across all areas so we can ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people. The seven outcomes for children and young people are:

- **I am confident and able to achieve my goals**
- **My voice is heard and acted upon**
- **I enjoy good health and wellbeing**
- **I feel safe**
- **I feel part of my local community**
- **I am happy and have people I can trust**
- **The people who love me and care for me are enabled to do this**

This strategy has been written in line with the commitments made in our Stockport Working In Partnership Charter, and Engagement and Participation Strategy 2024-27.



Stockport puts people at the heart of what we do and is committed to empowering people to shape and influence their local communities and council services.

Our Working in Partnership Charter builds on our Co-production Charter, which was produced by young people with additional needs and disabilities, parent, carers, health and voluntary and community organisations in 2020.

The Working in Partnership Charter covers all services and sets out how we collectively as a Council will work together with local residents and stakeholders. The Charter states that together we will:-

- **Listen and Engage**
 - Create spaces where you are able to share your voice
 - Make sure we listen to people who have experienced disadvantage and inequality
 - Reward and recognise people who share their experiences with us
- **Do what matters**
 - Prioritise what is important to you in what we do
 - Learn from each other
 - Work together to create solutions
- **Communicate clearly**
 - Be clear with our expectations
 - Have conversations about you, with you
 - Be clear about what can and cannot be influenced or changed
- **Be accountable**
 - Respond and follow up on agreed actions
 - Provide ongoing feedback in the form of 'you said, we did, what next'
 - Learn from and share what has worked and where we could do better
- **Be respectful**
 - Respect experiences, you are the expert in your own life
 - Have mutual respect for people and communities
 - Make information accessible for everyone
- **Work together**
 - Work hard to build relationships with people and communities
 - Be creative with how we work with people so there are many ways for us to hear your views
 - Work with you at all stages so your views can influence design and delivery of change.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EARLY HELP?

“Early help is support for children of all ages that improves a family’s resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse. It is not an individual service, but a system of support delivered by local authorities and their partners working together and taking collective responsibility to provide the right provision in their area.” *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023*

Early help is the term used in Stockport to describe our approach to ensure the right help is available to children, young people and families as soon as problems emerge, or re-emerge and is underpinned by ‘whole system’ and ‘whole family’ working.

In Stockport, early help is not a single service, it is a collaborative approach involving all partners, universal and targeted services, communities, and families and relies upon restorative practice principles of working ‘with’ one another, offering the right support at the right time, supporting families to stay together empowering families to make positive changes and improving children’s outcomes. In Stockport we promote early help as ‘everyone’s business’.

Early Help Design Principles & Enabling System Conditions – developed through GM EH Community of Practice, Jan -July 2021. (A build upon Covid learning work and EY Complex Needs work)



Children and their families in Stockport may require help and support at any time during childhood and adolescence. By intervening early, we know that we can prevent more complex and damaging problems from emerging. This strategy sets out Stockport's vision to guarantee, at times of need, a clear and easy pathway into early help for families where the early help system acts together to ensure children, young people and families receive the help they need.

In Stockport we use a **THRIVE** model to set out how we work across the partnership to ensure families receive the right help at the right time.



Early help spans across a continuum of need for those who may need advice and signposting, outcome / goal focused help through to those who need more help from targeted support service to limit the impact of their circumstances.

In Stockport we use early help assessment, as a strengths based tool to identify a child and family's needs and provide timely support before problems escalate. Whilst not all families who access Stockport's early help offer will require an early help assessment consideration of one can be given at any time. When a child, young person or family are accessing goal focused help, consideration by universal services working with the family *should* be given to initiating a whole family early help assessment. Furthermore, when a family continue to need help as goals have not been met with support from universal services consideration *must* be given to initiating an early help assessment. This targeted support can be led by any lead professional including from Stockport's dedicated and targeted early help team named 'Family Help'. More information about early help assessments can be found at www.stockport.gov.uk/early-help-assessments.

EARLY HELP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

“Early Help is the total support that improves a family’s resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse.” *Early Help System’s Guide, March 2022*

In Stockport, our approach to early help aligns with the guidance provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Department for Education (DfE) on best practice for delivering early help across local areas. Our early help system is designed to be comprehensive and cohesive, utilising a robust, multi-agency workforce that includes community support, universal services, and targeted services. This integrated workforce collaborates seamlessly to deliver effective early help to those who need it.

The accompanying diagram illustrates the diverse range of services that constitute our early help offer, highlighting the collective effort and shared responsibility across sectors in providing support within the community.



In Stockport we have created a shared responsibility across agencies to act early when needs emerge (see appendix 1)

OUR CURRENT EARLY HELP SYSTEM

Early help is everyone's business, in Stockport it is a whole system approach to help and support, not a service provided by one single agency and includes NHS, educational settings, council services, independent services and voluntarily services. Below are some of the delivery models that make up our early help system:

Start Well and the Healthy Child Programme seeks to help children be healthy and ready for school, our Start Well and Healthy Child Programme ensures families gain support to give their child the best start in life. This includes early identification of social, emotional and developmental needs and provides help and support needed.

One Stockport Family Hubs exist as networks of people and places which work together to create open access to universal, early help and community offers within local neighbourhoods. Families can access information about their Family Hub virtually, and physically through buildings and outreach.

Team around the School (TAS) and Team around the Early Years (TAEY) continues as our early intervention approach underpinned by restorative approaches which aims to support children and families with emerging needs. The approach enables early years providers and schools to access early help and support for their children and families.

Success at SEN Support enables the effective identification and management of children's SEN needs at the earliest point from early years through to leaving education to improve outcomes and support the sustainability of education, health and care services.

Parenting Stockport has a range of services to meet the needs of parents including a digital offer via Essential Parent, the Solihull multiuser licence, peer support via the Empowering Parents Empowering Communities programme delivered by volunteers within their own communities, and the Invest in Play programme delivered by our neighbourhood teams supported by the specialist parenting team.

Stockport Neurodevelopmental team use a need led delivery model to support neurodivergent school aged children and young people. The service work centrally and in the One Stockport Family Hubs, alongside other services, to ensure access to information, advice, help and support is more readily available to support children with or without a diagnosis.

Multi Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) provides a pathway for a swift response to parents, carers and professionals to enable access to the right help services when support needs are identified.

The Youth Justice Partnership Board provides a wide range of early help interventions to prevent and reduce offending and re-offending through their early intervention and targeted youth support offer.

Stockport Homes offers a wide range of early help support to vulnerable families ranging from counselling services, tenancy support, youth work, school holiday provision, energy and money advice, and skills and employment support.

Education Welfare working with and alongside key partners our dedicated education welfare service offers a range of support that promotes and enables the best school attendance for children and young people across the borough.

Children's Therapy Services is made up of a team of Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Paediatric Dietitians, Support Assistants and Equipment Technicians. The services help children to achieve functional skills in speech /language /communication feeding / swallowing and physical development / independence through aids / adaptations by working with parents/carers, children and the wider workforce at universal, targeted and specialist levels to support the child right from the start.

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is an intensive, targeted home-visiting programme for first-time young mothers, up to 21 years old. The programme aims to improve children's life chances by offering a structured and personalised programme to reflect the strengths and needs of each mother and infant. Working with young mothers from pregnancy up until their child is between the age of 1 and 2.

MOSAIC work with anyone up to the age of 26 who's experiencing issues with drug or alcohol use, the service also provides support to parents or carers of young people who use substances. They also support children and young people affected by a parent or caregiver who is using substances, helping them to understand the impact of their drug or alcohol use on their children.

REFRESHING THE STRATEGY THREE YEARS ON...

Stockport in 2024 – our challenges and opportunities

Over the last decade we have been hard at work turning this vision into a reality. We have many strengths:

Many children in Stockport live in settled families, are healthy, benefit from the sufficiency of high-quality education places and achieve well at school.

Our nationally recognised Stockport Family model has been embedded since 2015 and brings together services for education, health, early help, and social care to ensure families are able to get the support they need when they need it.

We have successfully embedded a restorative model as part of our approach to working with children and families and between professionals to support the development and maintenance of healthy relationships.

Prevention and early help within the community is a key focus for us. In 2023 we redesigned and

relaunched our family help offer to ensure children and families are able to access support at the earliest opportunity through a neighbourhood model with strong community connections.

However, we know that times continue to be hard for many people and that our borough is a place of stark inequality. Persistent inequality means that the life chances of many of our children are determined by their postcode and background and many families are caught in a cycle of multiple disadvantages.

This strategy is a refreshed version of our previous strategy launched in 2021.

The process for refreshing the Early Help strategy has involved a systematic approach to reviewing the original plan, evaluating data, consideration of latest literature and research – local and national, government guidance, and learning from the experiences of families.

This refreshed strategy builds on the foundations of the last three years and is aligned to a number of local and national policy drivers.

EARLY HELP PRIORITIES 2024-2027

Our priorities will be implemented through delivery plans, which set out actions and timescales and will be appropriately scrutinised and monitored through the oversight and governance of Stockport Family Partnership Board.

These priorities are linked to Stockport's Children and Young People Plan 2024-27 and a number of strategies across the Children and Families portfolio. These include:

- Neighbourhood and Prevention Programme
- Start Well Strategy
- SEND Strategy
- Joint Commissioning Strategy
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Over the next three years we will make sure all children, young people and their families have access to a clear and inclusive early help offer. To do this we will focus on: -

- families,
- communities,
- workforce and organisation development,
- leadership and data, and
- performance and systems.

These five areas provide a roadmap for strategic leads to ensure we continue to effectively deliver early help and build on existing strengths. Priorities for Early Help, as identified in the Children and Young People's Plan for the next three years are:

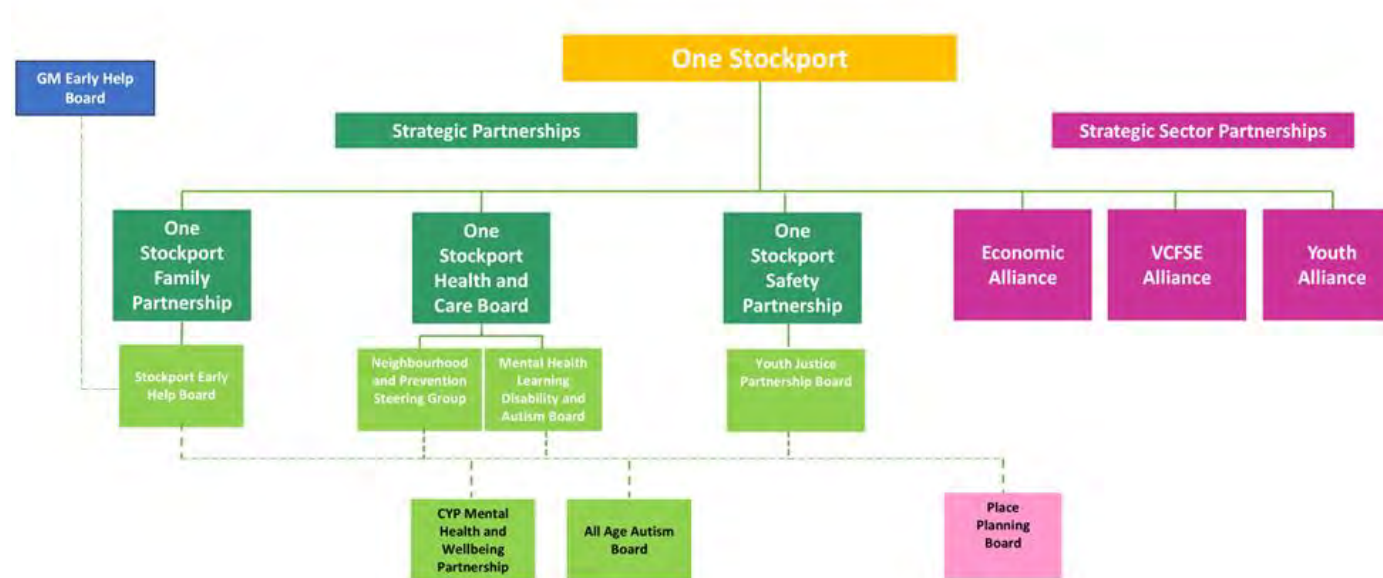
- Continue to develop and embed family hub networks across the borough to further improve access to services, better connection and strengthen relationships with families.
- Develop a virtual hub to enhance our early help the offer and improve access to services to families when they seek support, advice, and signposting.
- Measure the effectiveness of our early help offer to ensure we understand the impact of interventions for families and children, including why families enter Early Help services and our strengths in meeting needs whilst continuing to identify areas for improvement.
- Strengthen the processes we have to capture family feedback across early help services and use this to improve service delivery.
- Ensure that we have a skilled, confident, and ambitious multi-agency workforce underpinned by clear theoretical foundations and child development and skilled in using evidence-based tools including identifying early signs of neglect.
- Use our resource in the most effective way to continue delivering a proportionate early help offer for all children, young people, and families at the earliest opportunity.
- Further develop community and school-based support focussed on wellbeing, school attendance and early help support to children with special educational needs and disability.

- Ensure families are 'supported whilst waiting' with the right early help offered by a known and trusted lead professional when waiting for a clinical assessment.



GOVERNANCE OF THE STRATEGY

The diagram below shows the six strategic partnerships in Stockport. These partnerships are responsible for bringing together different partners to shape our strategic direction, maintain accountability for the implementation of our partnership priorities, nurture collaboration and cross sector working and make strategic decisions on the allocation of shared resources.



The One Stockport Family Partnership has overall accountability for the delivery of our ambitions for children and young people. This strategy is overseen by the One Health and Care Board and Stockport Family Partnership Board; the responsibility for delivery has been delegated to the Early Help Board. The Early Help Board will report progress annually to the Stockport Family Partnership Board.

Strategic Priority 1: Families

We will ensure that children and families are able to navigate the right support at the right time. For families with multiple needs, we will make sure they are supported to navigate early help by a trusted lead professional, who wherever possible is known by the family. We will ensure that families don't have to tell their story multiple times and once supported, they feel listened to and cared about to achieve positive outcomes.

What have we achieved:

- Redesigned our family help model into a 0-19 offer allowing for seamless service provision and skill mix across the age range.
- Stockport's early help system is unpinned by restorative and relational practice.
- One named linked Stockport Family officer to early years setting and schools.
- One named health visitor for all 0–5-year-olds.
- A strength based, whole family early help assessment which should prevent families having to retell their story.
- The Stockport early help system is signed up to Stockport Working in Partnership Charter, and Engagement and Participation Strategy 2024-27.
- In 2023 Stockport was the first trailblazer to go live in the UK in the Invest in Play parenting integrated training offer and in the last year, we have delivered 6 courses, engaging 49 parents.
- We have successfully rolled out a Solihull Approaches parenting offer. Since its inception in September 2021, 1662, learners have engaged in this offer.

What will we focus on now:

1. When a child, regardless of their age, and their family require more help, we will ensure they receive a seamless transition to support, so children and families thrive in our communities with particular focus on, mental health, school attendance, healthy weight, and disability.
2. We will strengthen the processes we have to capture family feedback across early help services and use this to improve service delivery.
3. We will identify early help support for children and their families without a diagnosis, for those awaiting assessment, we will ensure they are supported whilst waiting.

Outcomes to be achieved:

- Families feel empowered to share their feedback and experiences to help shape service development.
- Families reflect that regardless of who they approach, they are given similar information, advice and signposting.
- Children and families don't have to tell their story repeatedly and when needs are identified they are responded to at the earliest opportunity.

- Children will receive children's social care intervention where it is only absolutely necessary in line with legislation and statutory guidance.
- Feedback is used to build 'even better' services.

What will success look like:

- Reduction in the number of children who need a statutory plan.
- Increase in the number of early help assessments completed and successfully closed following targeted help and support.
- Increase in the number of parents and carers who provide their views and opinions about the help and support their families receive.
- Increased and quality Special Educational Needs (SEN) support plans.
- All finalized education, health care plans (EHCP) occur following a period of high-quality SEN support, assessment, and plan.
- Reduction in children who are "not school ready."
- Improvement in school attendance across the borough
- Early help assessments for pre-school and school aged children actively consider attendance at early years settings and school. Any needs arising then feature in the team around the family plan.

Strategic Priority 2: Communities

We will continue to improve the relationships between Stockport Family and the voluntary and community sector making it easier for children and their families to access early help support informally in their communities. We will continue to build capacity in the community through those with lived experiences to ensure early help is meeting the needs of our communities.

What have we achieved:

- In Stockport we benefit from an overarching Voluntary, Community Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE) Strategy which firmly sets Stockport Council's collective commitment to the VCSFE through 3 key priorities – investment, capacity building, and community power.
- We have successfully launched One Stockport Family Hubs improving access to information, advice and help across the borough.
- We have made effective use of the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF). During 2023/24, 32 providers offered 40 clubs and 31896 spaces for children, 4 of these clubs were SEND specific.
- In 2023/24 we hosted our first ever youth summit led by Stockport's Youth Alliance, Listen. Over 150 young people from 15 secondary schools and colleges across the borough took part in sharing feedback which helped inform our early help priorities for 2024-27.
- Successfully rolled out of the Mental Health in School programme to 16 primary schools, 10 secondary schools and 1 college

What will we focus on now:

1. Continue to develop and embed family hub networks across the borough to further improve access to services, better connection and strengthen relationships with families.
2. We will use our assets and estates in the most effective way to achieve strong presence of the children's workforce in communities where children and families live.
3. When a family approach a professional in their community they are signposted to the right help and support the first time they ask.
4. We will use our resource in the most effective way to continue delivering a proportionate early help offer and opportunities for all children, young people, and families at the earliest opportunity.
5. We will use family voice to inform service delivery which particular focus on emotional wellbeing and physical health.
6. We will hold relentless focus on ensuring that children and young people characterised by vulnerability factors will attend school and have access and engage in high quality education and learning.
7. We will continue to bridge inequality gaps in our communities.
8. We will seek to further understand the current youth offer and R Time network in our communities to consider whether resources are meeting the needs of our communities.

Outcomes to be achieved:

- Children, young people and families voice and feedback will be used to improve system wide service delivery.
- Early help support will be provided in the community, by the right professional without the need for multiple transfers between professionals
- When a family approach a professional in their community they are signposted to the right help and support the first time they ask.
- Children, young people and families will be supported whilst waiting for assessments, therapies and diagnosis and where appropriate offered early help support.

What will success look like:

- Increase in children and families helped to improve outcomes through an early help assessment and plan.
- Reduction in contacts and re-referrals to the multi-agency support and safeguarding hub (MASSH) meaning children and their families are supported in the communities where they live, learn and play.
- Reduction in the inequality gaps in our communities.
- Improved school attendance.
- Increased number of children who are supported via SEN plans and for whom an early help assessment is completed.

Strategic Priority 3: Workforce development and organisational development

We will work together with partners to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce, by enhancing the skills, knowledge, and capabilities of workers through training, education, reflective supervision, career advancement, and continuous learning.

What have we achieved:

- Stockport's systemic, restorative, and relationship-based practice model is well embedded across the partnership.
- Early help Assessment training is available to all professionals across the partnership.
- 170 staff, so far, have engaged in 'family hub bridge' training creating 'whole family' thinking across our communities.
- We have resourced access to the council's online learning tool for 200 VCFSE sector colleagues and other partners to access the training offer through Family Hubs in connection with the Neighbourhood and Prevention Programme.
- To support emotional health and wellbeing for children, young people and their families we have adopted the Solihull Approach. Strategic Leads within health services have committed to ensure that the Solihull Approach is included in training needs analysis for all health roles working with the early years.
- Continued investment from key partners ensuring a vibrant and effective multi agency response in the multi-agency safeguarding and support hub (MASSH) including Police, Health, Stockport Homes and Pennine Care.

What will we focus on now:

1. Increase partner agency commitment to lead early help assessment and team around the family plans in line with presenting issues that left without support will create increased demand.
2. The workforce and wider organisations will benefit from a high-quality training offer that supports the integrated and skilled delivery of early help services.
3. We will ensure our workforce is informed and knowledgeable about SEND processes and how best to support a child with SEND.
4. We will ensure children, and their families are able to access appropriate services at an early stage with a focus on 'Success at SEN Support.'

Outcomes to be achieved:

- Children and young people's needs are identified early to avoid problems getting worse.
- A refreshed and updated early help assessment template, easier for all to use.
- Formal early help assessments and plans are successfully initiated and led by a range of professionals across the partnership.

- Multi-disciplinary teams know each other, work effectively together, share plans, and integrate to provide a seamless offer to families.
- Families and professionals are more knowledgeable about local provision and support by being able to access information, advice, and guidance.

What will success look like:

- Achieve the projected targets of Supporting Families programme for the local area.
- Increase in partners successful supporting families.
- Increase in early help support offered preventing the need for children and families to receive statutory assessment and plans.
- Increase in step up / step down activity between Family Help and Children's Social Care.
- Children, young people and their families are able to access support at an early stage with a focus on 'success at SEN support'.
- Families whose children have special education needs and/or disability receive an informed and knowledgeable offer of support.

Strategic Priority 4: Leadership

We will be ambitious in improving long term outcomes for children, young people and their families, avoiding unnecessary or costly intervention. We will continue to embed the Stockport Family delivery model where all partners co-operate for the joint goal of supporting families avoiding escalation and drift.

What have we achieved:

- As a council, prevention and early help are key priorities across the children's services portfolio.
- We have retained a stable senior leadership structure integrated model through Stockport Family (education, health, social care and early help) where 'early help' is at the heart of everything we do with named officers responsible for the effective delivery of early help and integration.
- In 2022 we were told by OFSTED that "There continues to be a strong early help offer and an increased focus on prevention, early intervention and mental health support." Evidencing the shared culture across the system to successfully deliver early help. Since this time, we have introduced a family hub delivery model further strengthening those families in need of advice, support and help.
- We have created an integrated leadership team within our new family help model, purposely aligned to our family hubs, bringing leaders together to form productive and trusting relationships, share influence, responsibility and accountability for improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

What will we focus on now:

1. We will develop and embed a partnership agreement identifying the right lead professional for a child and family even at a point of increased need and complexity to effectively deliver on the Social Care Review (formally Stable Homes, Built on Love).
2. We will measure the effectiveness of our early help offer to ensure we understand the impact of intervention for children and their families, with a particular focus on children with disabilities.
3. We will build further early help capacity within the early help system through collaboration with the public, the VCSFE, local businesses and the business sector, to understand the role they all play in improving outcomes for communities.
4. We will undertake a review of all parenting support available across the partnership, to strengthen and deliver a consistent offer.
5. Through the Changemaker Programme, we will continue to identify evidence-based interventions tailored to the needs of the local population. Additionally, we will establish clear systems and pathways to support the multi-agency delivery of these interventions across the partnership, as part of the early help offer.

Outcomes to be achieved:

- A system wide, shared accountability and responsibility to early help activity across the Stockport Family Partnership

- We will respond to the Government social care reforms, including children continuing to receive early intervention to help children stay with their families
- We will develop and embed a partnership agreement which identifies who the right lead professional is for a child at the point of increased needs and complexity, which traditionally would have been supported by a social worker
- Our workforce will feel well informed and confident about their roles as well as the teams they work with. This will require appropriate training, information, advice and guidance with clear oversight of quality and application from their manager.
- Workforce are informed and knowledgeable about SEND processes and know how they and other teams work collectively while retaining their own duties to support children, young people and families.
- Families reflect that regardless of who they approach, they are given similar information, advice and signposting.

What will success look like:

- Increased number of early help assessments completed in a timely way.
- Partners supported to complete early help assessments.
- Refreshed multi-agency, early help assessment training.
- Increased numbers of our integrated early help workforce completing SEND training.
- Community needs identified on demand data and supported by evidence based interventions throughout the system.

Strategic Priority 5: Data and Systems

We will assess, measure and evaluate the quality of services to achieve positive outcomes to ensure that services meet the needs of our Stockport community.

What have we achieved:

- We have strengthened our Data Sharing Agreement supported by the Supporting Families Programme, which now enables information sharing across many disciplines including school attendance data, Stockport Homes Group, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Probation, Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Greater Manchester, Health Visiting, School Nursing, Department for Work and Pensions, Victim Support and Stockport Without Abuse.
- Leaders and the workforce benefit from live dashboards detailing a high level of early help activity across the system to support quality practice and performance. Analysis of this is shared on a regular basis with Early Help Board members.
- We have developed an educational health and care plan portal to allow parents/ carers and schools the ability to request and track progress of an education health and care needs assessment.
- We have successfully embedded the Supporting Families outcomes framework within key documents in both early help and social care assessments which allows for live data to be available relating to progress being made and easing the process for Supporting Families claims.

What will we focus on now:

1. We will review key performance indicators that are indicative of a mature and healthy early help system.
2. We will maintain quarterly reviews of Supporting Families performance through the Early Help Board.
3. We will focus on the quality of information recorded on our multi-agency case management system to evidence impact of early help and meet Supporting Families Programme targets.
4. We will extend Stockport Family's Quality Assurance Framework to multi-agency early help practice reviews.
5. We will explore the use of Stockport's Family Context Tool to be widened to family help teams.
6. We will introduce school attendance data as a key performance measure within early help practice and performance.

Outcomes to be achieved:

- Children, young people and their families live in their communities with fewer children requiring statutory intervention.

- Regular data feeds from all parts of the partnership to be assured of the successful impact of early help.
- Improved school attendance and reduction of young people who are NEET.
- Increased use of early help assessment with a reduction in section 17 child and family assessments.

What will success look like:

- An increase in parents accessing the Stockport digital offer including the SEND local offer and Family Hubs online directory.
 - An increase in parents seeking self-help via online enquiry forms via Family Hubs and Family Hub Bridges.
 - Through the use of the family context tool, easier identification of professionals supporting a child, young person and their family.
 - Increased number of families supported via an early help assessment and plan.
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Appendix 1

Practitioner / Role	What does this early help look like	What children and families can expect
- Stockport Family Help Senior Work Practitioner - Stockport Family Help Social Workers - Stockport Family Help Co-ordinators - Stockport Family Locality Social Workers	These practitioners support families with multiple needs and act as a lead practitioner. They provide whole family, sometimes intensive support often in their home and in the community. They are experts in assessing whole family needs and formulating team around the family plans drawing in necessary support / intervention to meet need. They may support others with the lead practitioner role. They are the link for schools and early years settings for Team around the School and Team around the Early Years.	The primary purpose of these practitioners is to deliver targeted early help services
- Stockport Family Health visitors - Stockport Family School nurses - Midwives - Schools - Stockport Family Intervention Workers - Stockport Family Early Years Workers - Stockport Family MASSH social workers and early help advisors	These practitioners are often the first to identify a family's need for help or support, are able to assess the needs of all members of the family, act as a lead professional for a family and/or form part of a multi-agency team around the family plan They deliver evidence based interventions to support children and families They connect families to support in their communities via family hubs. They are well versed in early help and team around the family processes to support families with multiple needs and help families to understand them.	These practitioners frequently contribute to the effective delivery of early help for children and families.

• Stockport Family Mosaic Worker • Stockport Family Youth Justice Workers • Stockport Family Aspire Social Workers • Stockport without Abuses IDVAs • Stockport Family Education welfare officers • Stockport Homes Housing Officers • Neighbourhood Police Officers / PSCOs • Supporting Families Employment Advisors • Child and adolescent mental health workers • Stockport Family Neurodevelopmental Workers	These practitioners bring specialist expertise and therefore can be part of a team around the family when required / involved and/or provide consultation to practitioners They connect families with support in their community but also know how to start the process to bring wider support around a family where there are several needs They may act as the Lead Practitioner if they are the most appropriate person	These practitioners play an active role in children and families access and experience of early help.
• GPs • Probation officers • Prison officers • Adult mental health workers • Adult social workers • Voluntary, community and faith sector workers and volunteers • Library staff • Stockport Family ECHP case workers • Stockport Family Inclusion and Effective Leads	These practitioners or volunteers understand they are part of a system of support which ‘helps’ people They know how to ask questions to explore the wider needs families may have They know how to connect to other support for families They bring specialist expertise and need to be part of a team around the family when required / involved They don’t usually act as a lead practitioner unless this is in the family’s best interests They are active users of the local online directory of services to identify the right help for a family	These practitioners are connected to and contribute as necessary to the early help system.

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