

Early help councillor training: guidance

These notes accompany the template presentation slides.

- The template presentation slides are based on the Local Government Association (LGA) and Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) 'early help resource pack' for councillors, which is available at: www.local.gov.uk/early-help-resource-pack
- The slides are designed to be adapted for use by councils (council officers with responsibility for early help)
- We have indicated below the type of content that councils may wish to add to the slides; the suggestions are based on the content added by a council that trialled the training session in May 2019
- Please refer to the 'notes' section of each slide as some contain further information for inclusion during the delivery of the presentation

For more information on the early help councillor training resources, please email info@eif.org.uk with 'Early help councillor training' in the subject line.

Slide outline:

Slide 1: Title slide – you may want to add your council's logo

Slide 2: Session outcomes – outlines the objectives of the training session

Slide 3: Introduction – you may want to include here a brief introduction to the session from your council's lead member for children's services (or equivalent), covering, for example: why the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based early help is important for local children, young people and families (including, perhaps, a local case study demonstrating improved child outcomes arising from the council's successful delivery of early help); and how councillors can support the improvement of (design, commissioning and delivery of) early help in the local area

Slide 4: Defines the term 'early help'

Slide 5: Defines the term 'early intervention'

Slide 6: Defines the term 'early help offer'

Slide 7: You may want to use this slide to outline the council's current early help approach

Slide 8: Explains why early help is important for children, young people and families at risk of poor outcomes; and defines the terms 'risk factor' and 'protective factor'

Slide 9: Audience input activity – you may want to ask councillors to verbally name some risk and protective factors for children, before you move on to the next slide

Slide 10: EIF diagram detailing risk factors that exist at the level of the individual child (in black), the family (in grey), the community (in green), and society (in purple)

Slide 11: Local population needs – you may want to provide information/statistics here on local population needs relevant to some of the risk factors outlined in EIF's diagram on the previous slide (e.g.

healthy full-term birth, family income, housing quality and availability, or poverty) – i.e. provide some detail to councillors on what the local population needs are, and how the council identifies them

Slide 12: Why is early help important? – explains that early help not only delivers benefits to the children, young people and families who receive it, but also to communities, and to wider society

Slide 13: A note on the economic benefits... - explains that the *short-term* economic benefits of investment in early help have previously been overstated; it is important to be clear that while the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based early help *can* save money, benefits are to be gained in the *long-term* rather than the *short-term*

Slides 14 and 15: Define what is meant by 'effective' early help; and highlight the importance of evaluation of early help programmes, services and systems

Slide 16: Measuring the impact of early help locally – you may wish to include information here on how the impact of early help activity is measured in the local area (including, perhaps, areas for improvement). You may want to address questions such as: do current monitoring arrangements tell the council what is being achieved by services in sufficient detail?; how could the council increase children's services' capacity to generate evidence?

Slide 17: Outlines the legislation relevant to early help

Slide 18: Breakout session – you may want to ask councillors to consider the two questions on the slide in groups, then feed back to the room

Slide 19: Further information and resources that may be of interest to councillors

Between these slides you may want to signpost councillors to the council's own information and resources relevant to early help

Slide 20: Session evaluation – please ask councillors to complete printed copies of the feedback form provided, for collection by council officers delivering the session.

Please note that it would be of great value to EIF if council officers could scan the completed forms and send to info@eif.org.uk – we are keen to improve the content and format of the presentation, based on feedback received. Thank you!