

Supporting local areas to accelerate the progress of their local ‘Reducing Parental Conflict’ programme

Expression of Interest

Background

Strong scientific evidence shows that conflict between parents can affect multiple outcomes for children, including emotional, behavioural, social, and academic development. Supporting families effectively to improve parental relationships and make sustainable positive changes is complex. It depends on robust local arrangements for strategy and planning, leading change, delivering effective single and multi-agency working, and evaluating progress. Establishing effective arrangements will not only improve outcomes for families but also reduce the likelihood of needs escalating.

Last year EIF consulted with local authorities to understand how evidence (both research and local information) is used within their area to inform strategy and service development. The findings from this exercise highlighted areas where EIF should focus its activity and could add further value to local areas. This led to EIF working with 5 local areas to test a range of tools designed to develop and maintain effective evidence-based support for families experiencing parental conflict. The local areas we worked with found the support invaluable in energising their RPC activity and increasing partner engagement whilst also supporting progress against the planning tool criteria. This year EIF is expanding this project to work with up to 15 local areas.

We would now like to invite local authorities to submit an expression of interest for the next phase of the programme. This will involve testing a range of tools to develop and maintain effective evidence-based support for families experiencing parental conflict. The overall goal is to accelerate RPC progress in local areas we support and further develop and improve the resources available to local areas based on the learning from the local development projects.

Working with local areas

EIF is initially seeking to work with local areas between September 2022 to February 2023, on specific tasks to accelerate progress against two key elements of the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) Planning Tool:

1. DELIVER: Services and Interventions
2. EVALUATE: Outcomes & Experience

Workstream 1: DELIVER - Services & Interventions

We want to work with local areas to further test a Needs Assessment tool and to understand how we could develop the tool for local areas going forward. The tool provides a step-by-step guide on how to assess the population needs in relation to parental conflict in a local area. This can help to identify the needs in your local area, who has them and how severe they are. It can also help to identify the needs of minority communities such as minority ethnic families, LGBTQ+ families and parents of children with SEND.

This could involve:

- Developing a local RPC needs assessment.
- Assisting local areas to find appropriate interventions that address gaps identified through the needs assessment.
- Mapping local services and interventions to develop a local support pathway.

Workstream 2: EVALUATE – Outcomes & Experience

EIF has developed an Outcomes Framework which outlines the link between interparental conflict and outcomes for both parents and children. It shows how the pathways from recognised risk factors related to a child's exposure to parental conflict and their impact on outcomes. We wish to work with a small group of local areas to test and develop the outcomes framework as part of a local needs assessment or a local performance dashboard. This will then be used to develop the guidance for other local areas that wish to develop a local RPC outcomes framework.

This could involve:

- Developing a local outcomes framework to support the collection and use of data and other evidence across the local partnership.
- Access to tailored advice on outcome measures via on-line surgeries to inform the development of the local framework.

For more information about how this might look in practice please take a look at Tameside's [case study](#).

Criteria for the selection of local areas

To support selection, interested areas should complete and submit this expression of interest via [Survey Monkey](#) by **5pm Friday 15 July 2022**. We often experience a high level of interest in participating in programmes of this type, therefore, please be aware that the submission of an expression of interest is no guarantee that your support project will be selected by EIF.

You can express an interest in both projects if you wish to do so. However, we are asking you to prioritise them as the likelihood is that we will be limited to delivering one project for each local area selected. Preferences, as well as the following criteria, will be considered as part of the selection process:

Application criteria:

- Whether the local area is assessed to be ready to participate and able to deliver the commitments outlined below within the programme period September 2022 – Feb 2023.

Selection criteria:

- A mix of areas at different stages of their RPC work.
- A mix of areas from across England.

Following submissions, EIF may have follow-up calls with interested authorities to discuss activity they will be involved in, capacity required and general level of readiness to participate during this next stage of testing. We expect to notify local areas of the outcome by late July 2022. See the [Data Protection Notice](#).

Your commitment

Local areas participating in this programme will be expected to:

- Provide performance manager/analyst type capacity with knowledge of current performance indicators captured in relation to reducing parental conflict and an understanding of other data held by local systems.
- Ensure appropriate internal and partner engagement and capacity as required, both at a senior and practitioner level.
- Identify an internal project manager to lead the project and liaise with EIF advisors and manage workshop/ meeting arrangements and local communication
- Support the evaluation of this programme by keeping a rolling 'learning log' to record insights and lessons learned and contribute to a series of case studies to be published on EIF's RPC hub. Case examples will draw on the learning from selected sites to share practical recommendations and key lessons learnt.

Support process

Once selected, EIF will work with the local area's dedicated contact to agree the support project, deliverables, and local area capacity requirements over a set timeframe of 6 months from September 2022.

EIF will allocate up to 8 working days of support time per local area, at the start of the project we will agree how this will be structured. It will include both opportunities to come together with other areas and 1:1 support, a summary of what this is likely to include is detailed below.

Shared learning opportunities

Feedback from our previous local development projects has highlighted the importance of learning from others and therefore for 22/23 we have looked to expand this offer to include:

- Joint introduction to EIF tools and resources
- Facilitated learning events and surgeries
- A series of action learning sets to focus on shared areas of development

One-to-one support

We also recognise that each local area will have specific challenges that will require more specific support and therefore we will also include:

- Project support including support to develop and maintain a project plan with agreed milestones
- 1:1 support on your specific local development project which is likely to include regular meetings with your EIF point of contact
- Critical friend support to review and feedback on outputs

If you have any questions regarding the Expression of Interest, please contact bethan.lemastre@eif.org.uk

See a copy of the survey questions below:

GDPR statement

This data is being collected by the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) for the purposes of selecting several local areas to support this year. In compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) personal data collected will not be shared with or provided to any other third party for marketing or any other purposes. However, we plan to use the non-personal data you provide for research purposes working with DWP on local area RPC support.

If you would like to receive the EIF newsletter, event information or project updates, please register [via the EIF website](#). For more information, see the [EIF privacy policy](#).

If you would like more information on this, please contact: bethan.lemastre@eif.org.uk

If you would like to find out more about how we are processing your data in regards to this survey please click here for the [Data Privacy Notice](#).

By clicking 'Yes' below you are giving your consent for EIF to collect your data and are able to progress your Expression of Interest. (Also, by clicking 'Yes' you are acknowledging you have been given access to the Data Privacy Notice related to this Expression of Interest "Survey" held within Survey Monkey.)

- Yes
- No

Annex A – Survey **(provided for information, please use the link above to complete the survey)**

Organisation Name & Address	[Open text]
Dedicated contact for the RPC support project. This could be the Single Point of Contact (SPOC)	Name: [Open text] Job title: [Open text] Email address: [Open text] Telephone: [Open text]
Please prioritise which workstreams you would be interested in working with EIF to test approaches (as outlined in the Eol document). Please include why you would like to be involved in this, and why it's important to you. If you have no priority 2 please select not applicable	
Priority 1: <i>Dropdown</i> Please state why you would like to be involved in this, and why it's important to you [Open text] Priority 2: [if applicable] <i>Dropdown</i> Please state why you would like to be involved in this, and why it's important to you [Open text] <i>Dropdown options for each priority:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workstream 1: DELIVER - Services & Interventions • Workstream 2: EVALUATE – Outcomes & Experience • Not applicable 	
Please briefly describe the key challenges you have found in progressing your local RPC programme in relation to the priorities you've highlighted above. Open text (max 200 words)	
Are you able to confirm your commitment to the following during the period Sept '22 – Feb '23?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide performance manager/ analyst type capacity and with knowledge of current performance indicators captured in relation to reducing parental conflict and an understanding of other data held by local systems. Yes/No/ Not Sure • Ensure appropriate internal and partner engagement and capacity as required, both at a senior and practitioner level. Yes/No/ Not Sure • Identify an internal project manager to lead the project and liaise with EIF advisors and manage workshop/ meeting arrangements and local communication Yes/No/ Not Sure • Support the evaluation of this programme by keeping a rolling 'learning log' to record insights and lessons learned and contribute to a series of case studies to be published on EIF's RPC hub. Case examples will draw on the learning from selected sites to share practical recommendations and key lessons learnt. Yes/No/ Not Sure • Ensure identified project manager has sufficient capacity to attend regional/national learning events and surgeries in support of the project. Yes/No/ Not Sure 	

- Ensure identified project manager has sufficient capacity to participate in learning and evaluation events with other local areas who are also taking part in local development projects. [Yes/No/ Not Sure](#)

Any additional information that it would be useful for EIF to be aware of in relation to the commitments above?

[Open text \(max 200 words\)](#)

Would you be interested in working in partnership with another local authority with similar needs to receive support?

Please use this space to provide information, for example, if you have an established working relationship with other local areas.

[Open text \(max 200 words\)](#)

Reflecting on your local RPC priorities and plan of work, is there an area of focus, not covered by the two priorities listed (Evaluation & Delivery) that you would be interested in working on together with EIF? Please note this should be linked to your RPC planning tool/EIF tools and resources. Potential examples include developing a child's voice measure or understanding the impact of your RPC toolkit.

[Open text \(max 200 words\)](#)

Thank you for submitting an expression of interest. Please be aware that the submission of an expression of interest is no guarantee that your support project will be selected by EIF. Shortlisted local areas may be contacted by EIF for further information to inform the selection process. Areas selected for support will be notified by the end of July 2022.