



Wrapping an enhanced support process around an early years peer challenge to secure greater impact

An Enhanced Support Offer

EIF works with the local area to conduct an initial system assessment.

EIF leadership briefing confirming the position prior to going into the peer challenge process.

Support for 9 - 12 months after the peer challenge to facilitate stakeholder involvement and support the use of evidence in local planning.

Review of progress against baseline after 12 months.

Planning support

- Analysis of community needs assessment
- Intervention system mapping
- Readiness for change assessment
- Theory of change and action planning
- Conducting evaluation
- Local outcomes framework & measurement tools

Early Years Peer Challenge

1. SELF ASSESSMENT

Local areas use EIF's maturity matrix to complete a self assessment and identify priorities for improvement

2. STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

EIF supports a local workshop for stakeholders to prepare for the peer challenge, & confirm key lines of enquiry

3. LGA PEER CHALLENGE

Initial outputs include a final presentation and report, and local case studies on practice (LGA) and evidence (EIF)

4. LOCAL ACTION

Local area debrief and action planning to respond to the recommendations in the peer challenge final report

5. FOLLOW-UP

1 year on peer challenge follow-up by the LGA

An enhanced support offer

As part of the next phase of early years peer challenges in England, EIF will offer bespoke 'enhanced support' to a small number of the local areas undertaking challenges in 2021/22. This is bespoke advice, analysis and facilitation which wraps around a peer challenge, helping the local area to get the most out of the challenge process and take action to improve the local maternity and early years system.

Having undertaken a local baseline assessment using EIF's Maturity Matrix, local areas will receive a summary report based on their validated self-assessment. Those local areas who are planning on completing a peer challenge and go on to take up EIF's enhanced offer will be able to make use of:

- **POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT**
An EIF partner will work with the local public health lead to review the local needs assessment data on maternity and early years, and produce a summary and a plan for future development / enhancement. This work will strengthen the whole system narrative, and identify how gaps in data can be filled.
- **INTERVENTION SYSTEM MAPPING**
Developing a shared local understanding of current interventions, including what they are intended to achieve, who they are for, how they are currently operating, and whether they are supported by evidence. This work also identifies gaps, and helps local areas to take steps to steps to strengthen the local provision.
- **READINESS FOR CHANGE ASSESSMENT**
A local stakeholder survey on readiness, which assesses attitudes towards evidence and how the local context facilitates change.
- **OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK**
Support to design / revise the local maternity and early years outcomes framework, based on the four domains of child development.
- **THEORY OF CHANGE & EVALUATION**
Development of a theory of change for the local arrangements, and advice on local monitoring and evaluation. This will give a clear statement of intent for the local system, test the assumptions which support the local arrangements and provide a basis for evaluation.

The enhanced support process will start up to 4 months before a peer challenge and continue 9-12 months after the review has completed.

This support is only available to areas that are taking part in the LGA early years peer challenge process.