



SSCP News Brief  
September 19



## The Somerset Early Help Assessment (EHA) has been updated

The Early Help Assessment (EHA) documentation has been shortened to six pages following significant consultation with practitioners from all relevant agencies.

The EHA is a shared tool for all practitioners working with children, young people and families in Somerset who are delivering early help and SEND support in a co-ordinated way, so that they understand and respond to the needs of families.

- Practitioner guidance, frequently asked questions and leaflets can be found [here](#).
- A multi-agency working group has developed a training package called 'Early help – a quick guide'. The package can be found on the training page of the SSCP website [here](#).

Agencies continue to work together to refresh the Effective Support for Children and Families guidance alongside a new document called Effective Support for Children and Young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their Families. These will both be launched later in the Autumn.

Early help and SEND support is everyone's responsibility, we want children, families, communities and partner agencies to work together so that families can help themselves and be supported as soon as a need arises.

The EHA helps practitioners to make sure children, young people and their families receive the right support in the right place at the right time.

Click this link for a brief, real case study of early help in action <https://youtu.be/QIGTpQcE7XQ>

### Inside this bulletin:

- EHA changes
- Working together guidance
- Information and advice
- Coming soon...

## WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN 2018 STATES:

Practitioners should, in particular, be alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Is disabled and has specific additional needs
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory EHCP)
- Is a young carer
- Is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from care (from another local authority) or from home
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- Is a privately fostered child

The EHA is also the route through which support from practitioners can be requested and arranged



## FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ADVICE:

Consultation Line for Safeguarding Leads and Lead Practitioners	0300 123 3078
Early Help Advice Line	01823 355803
Professional Choices website*	<a href="http://www.professionalchoices.org.uk">www.professionalchoices.org.uk</a>
SENDIAS - Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support	01823 355578
Somerset Choices website	<a href="https://choices.somerset.gov.uk/025/">https://choices.somerset.gov.uk/025/</a>
Somerset Direct	0300 123 2224

### COMING SOON.....

- e-learning on early help
- what is the early help offer?
- Effective Support guides



**\*Professional Choices** - Please be aware that you do not need to be a registered user on Professional Choices to access the Early Help Assessment (EHA) and associated documents. However, by becoming a registered user you will have access to additional functions such as, Virtual Meeting Rooms (VMR) and the Who's Who Directory.

Please note that SPC accounts (@spc.somerset.gov.uk) can continue to be used but if you would like to register with your education account (@educ.somerset.gov.uk) or your email address has changed (e.g. @robertblake.org.uk) you will need to re-register on Professional Choices. At the point of completing the [Registration Form](#) if you could provide [Professional Choices Admin](#) with confirmation of the removal of your old account and the name(s) of any Virtual Meeting Rooms (VMRs) you are a member of they will ensure that you are granted access to these VMRs (once your registration is complete) on Professional Choices.'