



Early Help and Prevention Service

Version 5



Early Help and
Prevention Service



Cheshire West
and Chester



The Early Help and Prevention Service work to help:

- children, young people and their families with a range of needs
- people affected by domestic abuse and people with abusive behaviours


Our team is made up of a mixture of staff. We have family intervention workers, youth workers, Team Around the Family advisors, independent domestic violence advisors, participation workers, parenting practitioners, group workers and community safety staff.

Often our work requires support from a number of partners. Sometimes it can be for families who no longer need help from children's social care.

How we can help you

We support children, young people and their families when they have two or more unmet needs. This includes:

- children, young people and adults affected by domestic abuse;
- family members with a range of emotional health and wellbeing concerns;
- young carers;
- families with housing needs;
- adults and young adults wanting to return to or engage in work;
- working with children and young people with distressing behaviour;
- support with parenting concerns;
- young people who are not taken to school or struggling to access training or education;
- young people involved in risk taking or anti-social behaviour.



The service focuses on three key areas:

- family intervention and domestic violence and abuse
- early help, schools and partnerships
- community safety and youth service

Our Early Help and Prevention Teams work in the following districts:

- Northwich and Winsford
- Ellesmere Port and Neston
- Chester and Rural

Call your district team if you have a concern or want to speak to someone for advice.

Northwich and Winsford: **01244 972908**

Ellesmere Port and Neston: **0151 337 4535**

Chester and Rural: **01244 977720**

Protecting your privacy

All information you provide will be kept safe and secure. It will be shared properly to meet all data protection laws. You can view our privacy notice at:

cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/system-pages/privacy-notices/early-help-and-prevention-privacy-notice.aspx



Early Help and Prevention Service

Casework and domestic violence and abuse

Family Intervention Team

The family intervention team help families with a range of needs. They work with parents and carers to bring together a timely package of support. The needs of the family may be complex. They could be impacting on the wellbeing of children and adults within the family.


The team support families with complex issues including:

- parents or children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- children who have not been attending school regularly
- children who need help
- adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness
- families affected by domestic violence and abuse
- parents and children with a range of health problems

How we can help you

The team can help you achieve a happy family life. Some examples are by supporting with routines, home conditions, housing tenancy and/or child development.

Caseworkers will work with your family to do an early help assessment. This is known as a Team Around the Family (TAF). See page 7. This is a very supportive approach. It will make sure we can give the right support at the right time.



If you feel you and your family need additional support and/or if you would like a Team Around the Family assessment speak to a professional who is already supporting you. This could be a health visitor, a housing officer, a youth worker or a school professional.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Intervention and Prevention Team provide intensive help. This is for people at high risk of domestic abuse.

It is often family members or close friends who can see when a relationship is not healthy. You might notice something doesn't seem quite right. If you are experiencing domestic abuse or are worried about someone call 0300 123 7047, option 2. Speak to a professional in confidence.

Help and advice is also available by visiting openthedoorcheshire.org.uk.

Or you can speak to a professional who is already supporting you. They will talk to you about making a referral.

How we can help you

An Independent Domestic Violence Advocate will talk to you in confidence. They will help you make a plan. They will talk about choices to help keep you safe.

They will work closely with other partners to manage any abusive behaviours. They will offer advice and support for increased safety for you and your family. Other partners involved may include GPs, the police and local hospitals.



Early Help and Prevention Service

Early help, schools and partnerships

The Early Help Schools and Partnership Team work closely with schools and community organisations. They provide early help for local children, families and young people. This includes support for:

- Parents who would like parenting advice. We want to help you give your children the best start.
- For families supported by Early Help and Prevention or Children's Social Care. Support is offered through an enhanced parenting group work programme.
- Young people leaving school and moving into further education or employment.
- Professionals involved with Team Around the Family assessments.

Parenting


Our parenting platform on Live Well Cheshire West has lots of information to help you. Access free online courses and tips. Learn about what is going on in your local area, for example parenting support within schools, activities in children's centres.

Search 'parenting platform' on livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Young people leaving school

Each year a number of young people leave school and do not move into education, employment or training. These young people are known as NEET (not in education, employment or training).

Our Young People's Service helps young people plan for the future. They help them make the most of their life and career opportunities and aspirations. They can support you to make a successful and continued move into education, employment or training.



How can we help you?

Call into one of our drop in sessions.

They are held each week in Chester, Ellesmere Port, Northwich and Winsford.

Search 'Young People's Service' on cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk for venues and times.

Or call or email for details of drop in times.

You can also make an appointment to speak to an advisor:

Email: youngpeoplesservice@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Tel: 01244 972908

Team Around the Family (TAF)

A TAF is a way of working out what extra support you and your family may need. It is used to get everyone working together to identify the needs and strengths of your family. It looks at what extra support you may need and who is best to help you. Many young people have benefited from TAFs and found them to be a positive experience.

Our TAF advisors work with professionals to help them to help you. They offer tailored advice, guidance and support to improve the quality of assessments and plans. The team also work in schools to promote TAF. Advisors deliver training and supervision to increase the number of TAF assessments. This helps those families in need to receive high quality, effective early intervention.

A TAF for you?

If you feel you and your family would like a Team Around the Family assessment please speak to a professional who is already supporting you. For example a health visitor, a professional from school, a youth worker or a housing officer. You can also call your district Early Help and Prevention Team direct. See page 3 for details.



Early Help and Prevention Service

Community safety and youth service

The Community Safety Team and Youth Service work closely together. They arrange events for young people to give them something to do. It also helps to reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Community Safety Team work to protect our local communities. They reduce crime and disorder in west Cheshire. The team includes non-uniformed community safety officers (CSOs) and uniformed community safety wardens (CSWs). Officers are all based in police stations. They work with three dedicated police officers in Partnership Problem Solving Teams.

The Community Safety Team work to ensure:

- all our families, children and young people are supported to get the best start in life
- vulnerable adults and children feel safe and are protected
- cleanest safest and most sustainable neighbourhoods in the country

The CSOs manage the people responsible for anti-social behaviour (ASB). They manage local areas where ASB takes place. The CSWs work alongside the CSOs. They have powers to stop dog fouling, litter and illegal parking.

For information about reporting a crime search 'report a crime' on cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



YOUTH SERVICE

The Youth Service support young people aged 13 - 19 years, up to 25 years if special educational needs (SEND). We want young people to have the best possible opportunities, experiences and positive outcomes. We want them to fulfil their potential and thrive.

We offer young people:

- somewhere to go, something to do, someone to talk to
- support, advice and guidance on issues affecting them
- C card condom distribution scheme
- projects to get involved in, for example The Youth Senate

The Youth Service deliver youth groups in our Chester and Rural, Ellesmere Port and Neston, Northwich and Winsford districts. The groups are free and safe. They offer supportive informal learning and fun activities. They can be:

- Centre based youth zones
- SEND youth provisions
- Amplify youth music projects
- Detached youth work
- Pop-up youth zones

Young people can expect informal, engaging and interactive support. Our trained staff offer advice and guidance. This can be around drugs and alcohol, smoking, sexual health and healthy lifestyles.

We aim for young people to be informed. We want them to explore their values and beliefs, to talk about risk-taking behaviours and the consequences. This helps young people to make positive, healthy choices about their lives.

Young people can seek one to one support when they need it. This can be on any worries or concerns they may have. This could include self-harm, mental health and wellbeing, teenage relationship abuse (TRA) and hate crime. We advise what it is and how to report it.

Cheshire West & Chester Council



The Youth Senate is Cheshire West and Chester's Youth Council. This is our young peoples' voice at a local, regional and national level. It makes sure young peoples' thoughts and feelings are being listened to when making important decisions that affect them.

The Youth Senate is open to 11 to 25 year olds who are interested and passionate about making a difference for young people. Members are invited to represent the young people's voice at council meetings. They are asked to consult with young people on various issues.

Two elected Members of Youth Parliament (MYP) attend the Youth Senate. They are voted for by their peers in MYP school elections.

If you or any young people in your family would like to know more about the activities on offer search 'youth service' on cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Extra services to support you

We commission a range of extra support services. Families need to meet the Early Help and Prevention Service threshold for:

Emotional Health and Well Being Service

Provided by Core Assets. Mental health practitioners give lower level emotional health and wellbeing support for young people. They also offer advice and support for parents, carers and professionals.

Domestic abuse support

Provided by WHAG (Women's Housing Action Group). Support is given to people assessed as being at medium risk of domestic abuse.

Abusive Partner Programme

Provided by Cheshire and Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company. This is a healthy relationships programme that takes a preventative approach to domestic abuse.

Young Carer Services

Provided by Carers Trust 4all. Young carers have access to peer mentors, one to one support, residential trips, skills based training and education, training and employment.

Youth groups for 13-19 year olds who identify as LGBT+

Provided by The Proud Trust, groups are open to any young people who identify as LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, plus other identities). The groups also welcome those questioning their sexuality or gender identity.

Rapid Access to Psychological Therapies Service

Quality and responsive counselling services provided by Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.



Useful information

The Early Help and Prevention Service work closely with the **Starting Well Service**. They put support together for families to help make positive change. More information can be found on startingwell.org.uk

The **West Cheshire Children's Trust School Readiness booklet** can help you prepare your child for school. School readiness can mean different things to different people. The booklet helps parents, carers and practitioners understand how they can help children to be ready for school.

Search 'school readiness' on cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Additional services to help you and your family can be found at **livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk** Services are provided by many partners in the local area.

If you, or someone you know is in a relationship that doesn't feel quite right speak to someone about it. You can get help and advice at **openthedoorcheshire.org.uk**

Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

Council information is also available in Audio, Braille, Large Print or other formats. If you would like a copy in a different format, in another language or require a BSL interpreter, please email us at **equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk**

Tel: 0300 123 8 123 **Textphone:** 18001 01606 275757

email: equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

web: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk