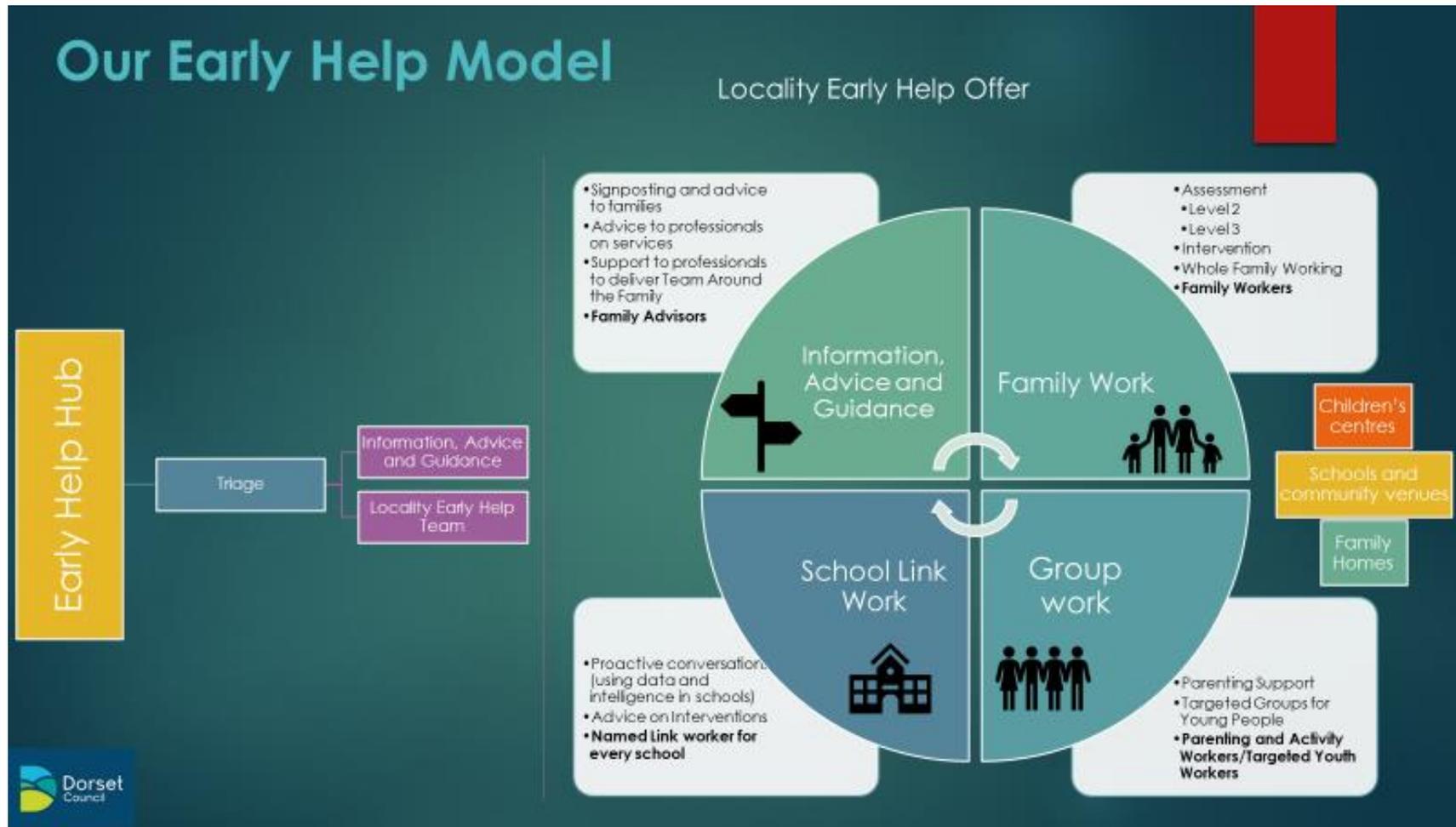


EARLY HELP OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

Early Help is the total support that improves a family's resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse. We understand the importance of high-quality universal services as an important foundation of early help, building children, young people and family resilience. We are committed to providing help and support in communities, so that we are embedded in the places where families live, learn and thrive and alongside partners who want the best for our children. We recognise that an effective early help system is entirely reliant on strong relationships across the whole system as well as with our children, young people and families.



Our Early Help Workforce

Family Advisors

Family Advisors provide direct support to families and help them to access local services in their community as well as other sources of support such as information online. They may also help families through practical support such as benefits advice or completion of forms.

Link Workers

Link workers from each locality are attached to every educational setting. They undertake link visits at least once every term to support proactive identification of children likely to need early help; support settings to provide early help; understand thematic issues and arrange groups for children and young people. As well as visiting the setting, they are a consistent point of contact for the setting to seek advice and guidance

Family Workers

Undertake assessments and provide interventions, primarily in the family home.

Activity and Parenting Workers

Design and deliver parenting support – parenting skills and strategies as well as evidence-based parenting programmes including Incredible Years

Targeted Youth Workers

Lead on contextual safeguarding in a locality, maintain links with community universal youth provision, provide detached youth work sessions and offer a small number of targeted group work interventions for vulnerable young people.

Each Locality Early Help team has champions to lead and share best practice: Domestic Abuse, Child Exploitation, Parenting, Early Years, Relationships

Universal Access to Information for partners and families

Family Information Service and SEND Local Offer.

Early Help Hub/direct contact with locality team (no wrong door)

Families and Partners can directly request early help involvement through contact with the Early Help Hub or through direct contact with the locality team. The Early Help Hub works as part of our Integrated Front Door and triages requests for Early Help and lower level Police Protection Notices.

- Between April 2021 and September 2021
 - 2826 early Help involvement requests were received
 - 41% resulted in Information, Advice and Guidance
 - 56% led to assessment
 - 28 % led to Level 3 assessment– whole family approach with a Family Worker as the lead professional

- 28.% led to Level 2 assessment– supporting a community partners to lead a Team around the Family Approach OR supporting one individual in a family
- 0.2% resulted in request for social work assessment

Early Help Assessments

The Early Help Hub determines at what level assessment might be undertaken in the locality. Level 2 assessments are undertaken when we work with one family member – usually a young person or when we are working alongside a community partner and we believe they are likely to take the lead professional role. Level 3 assessments are undertaken by Family Workers when we will take the lead professional role. These are more detailed and enable us to provide direct work, often in the family home.

The outcome of these assessments is summarised below:

- Between April 2021 and September 2021
 - 1,689 assessments were completed
 - 59% led to further direct work and/or TAF led by Family Worker
 - 34% no further early help support
 - 2% step up to Level 4 (social work)
 - 4% resulted in a TAF approach lead by a community partner

Group Work

We provide a core and consistent offer of group work including a range of evidence-based programmes. These are delivered virtually or face to face by our teams (Activity and Parenting Workers and Family Workers) and may be co-facilitated with partner agencies such as schools, public health nursing or voluntary and community sector. In each locality, the team agree a programme with partners, according to local context and need.

This is determined by emerging issues or patterns evident in social care work, Early Help Involvement Requests, link work and local priorities as established in the Local Alliance Group.

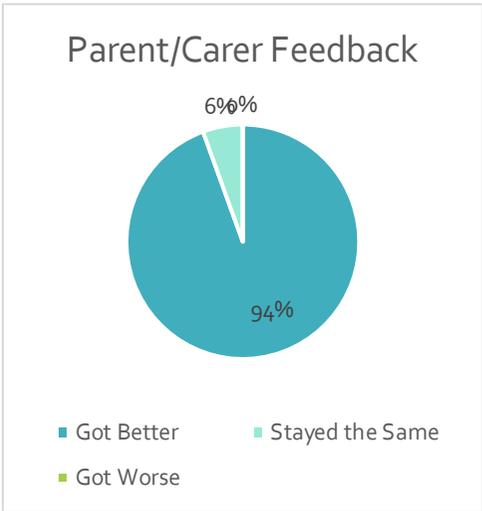
- Between April 2021 and September 2021
 - 1379 adults and 974 children have accessed groups and courses in all 6 localities and /or online
 - 702 (72%) children were aged under 5 years old

Family Feedback

Family feedback is gathered as an ongoing part of the work and systematically through monthly audit. We asked family (parent/carer) and child: "What difference has the support made to you and your family?"

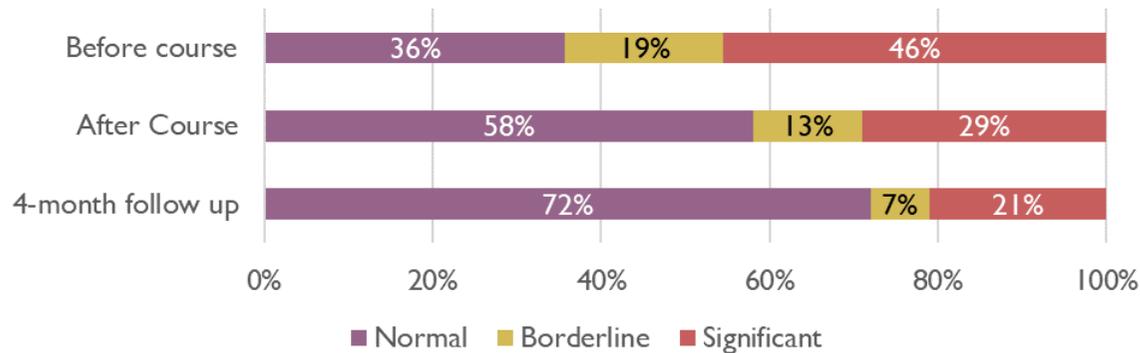
"I came in feeling really stressed and anxious but feel so much better at the end. I feel supported and understood."

"Being here with my husband has made it easier to learn. We have got better at working together."



Evaluation of Evidence Based Parenting Programme – using Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires

Our Evidence Incredible Years Programme is evaluated using SDQs completed by parents/carers. These are reviewed regularly. The graph below shows the impact these courses and clearly shows there is an increase in parental reports of children's wellbeing in the normal range and a decrease in the proportion of parents reporting concerns in the significant range. The **Incredible Years Parenting Programme** has been offered both face-to-face and virtually, daytime and evening. 122 families have accessed across 6 localities.



Evaluation of Healing Together: Domestic Abuse Programme - children's pre and post programme feedback and parent completed SDQ

The 'Healing Together' programme was born out of a request from mothers who had started their journey of recovery from domestic abuse and violence in 2016. They expressed that they wanted similar help and support for their children but could not find anything suitable. Their children were labelled as 'naughty', they were at risk of exclusion from school and struggling to access any help. We have a number of accredited facilitators delivering this programme across the county.

SDQ Results		
Measure & possible score	Pre-Programme Average	Post-Programme Average
Emotional Problems (10)	5.4	3.4
Conduct Problems (10)	3.8	3.2
Hyperactivity (10)	8.4	6
Peer Problems (10)	4.4	3.6
Prosocial (10)	7.4	7.4
Externalising Score (conduct + hyperactivity) (20)	12.2	9.2
Internalising Score (emotional + peer problems) (20)	9.8	7
Total Difficulties (40)	22	16.2

Families Feedback on their experiences of the Healing Together Programme.

"This is a great programme for a child that suffers with anxiety. Its great to understand other techniques used to help calm your child down."

"It is a very useful programme, you have learnt some of he strategies before doing it with your child rather than your child is invaluable"

"I would say that it is an amazing and it has opened my eyes into why my daughter struggles and how I can help"

"Very good and informative. Loved that it could be completed with your child"

"It is a good course for children suffering from stress/anxiety. I would recommend to parents with children that had low level/mild stress anxiety."

Supporting Families Programme (Dorset Families Matter)

Our Payment by Results performance for Supporting Families (Dorset Families Matter) demonstrates excellent outcomes for families. 1,322 families were attached as at 30th June 2021/22. We are ahead of target with PBR returns.

Step-Up Step Down

If we step up to social care, the allocated worker stays alongside to ensure a warm handover with the family. They may stay involved to support an aspect of the CIN/ CP Plan.

An Early Help Worker may also become involved in a CP / CIN plan to support Step Down. As at the end of August 2021, there are currently 161 CIN/CP cases being supported by the Early Help workforce.