



## Early Help Offer for Blakeney and Pillowell Schools

This policy is derived from the Graduated Pathway of Early Help and support for children, young people and families in Gloucestershire.

**“Early Help: providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child or young person's life” (Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015).**

The Early Help Offer is an approach, not a service. It respects every family's right to access information to help manage their own lives successfully, whilst guiding them to seek support from appropriate sources. Help can then be arranged as soon as concerns about a pupil's welfare or wellbeing start to emerge.

The Offer is for all children, as issues may arise at any point in a child's or young person's life. It includes both universal and targeted/specialist services, to reduce or prevent concerns from growing or becoming entrenched.

Early Help includes prevention education as well as intervention where necessary or appropriate. In some cases immediate urgent action might be necessary if a child or young person is at risk of immediate harm.

### **At Blakeney and Pillowell Schools:**

Help is there when parents, children and young people need it, 'nipping problems in the bud'.

Together, with pupils and their parents, we will find a way forward that is right for each individual pupil providing a choice of help which will be easy to access.

Families are at the centre of everything we do - they will only have to tell us their story once.

We will be assertive with families who may not want support, but need it - and we will continue to support families until they no longer need our help.

The Gloucestershire Children's Safeguarding Board 'continuum of need' windscreen is an important guide to the approach for early help for children and their family's and is included as Appendix 1.

### **Our Early Help Offer is:**

1. Hearing what children have to say: The school can provide a neutral place where the child feels it is safe to talk. Sensitivity to the disclosure is vital. Staff must listen carefully to what the child is saying, treat it seriously, and value what they say.
2. Using the voice of the child: Pupils use the Local Authority's My Profile and our own periodic pupil survey. Results are monitored and interventions are put in place, where appropriate.
3. Valuing safeguarding training at all levels: The designated safeguarding lead (DSL), Brett Stevenson and deputy DSL, Nicki Allen and Tracey Bees undergo training every two years. All other staff members receive single agency training every three years, in line with the LA's recommendation. New staff carry out online safeguarding training as part of their induction.
4. Seeking advice from credible sources: The DSL or deputy DSL (or other members of staff if necessary) readily seek advice from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB) in the event of a disclosure or if they are concerned about a pupil's wellbeing.
5. Being knowledgeable and aware: The headteacher is signed up for the GSCB's alerts, keeping knowledge and awareness of safeguarding up-to-date and at the heart of their practice.
6. Working with local support organisations: The school works with the local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team to support families.
7. Understanding links: Staff understand the correlation between domestic abuse and child protection - staff are vigilant, listening to the child and making referrals as required.
8. Sharing risk management practice: The school is fully engaged with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference process, when necessary.
9. Raising awareness: The school raises parents' awareness of self-harm and eating disorder websites, as well as their understanding of the correlation between self-harm and suicide, aiming for early identification of pupils at risk.
10. Identifying risks at the earliest opportunity: The school uses the Child Sexual Exploitation Tool for early identification and makes referrals as necessary.
11. Understanding legal responsibilities: Staff are aware of the extent of female genital mutilation and forced marriages, and understand how to fulfil their legal responsibilities.

## Contact and Support

<p>Universal source of help for all families in Gloucestershire: <b>Gloucestershire Family Information Service</b></p>	<p>Gloucestershire Family Information Service (FIS) advisors give impartial information on childcare, finances, parenting and education. FIS is a useful source of information for parents and professionals. They support families, children and young people aged 0 -19 years of age (25 for young people with additional needs) and professionals working with these families. They can help link parents up with other organisations that may be able to help or provide further information if needed.</p> <p>FIS can be contacted by emailing : <a href="mailto:familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk">familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>. Or telephone: (0800) 542 0202 or (01452) 427362.</p> <p>FIS also has an extensive website with a wealth of information: <a href="http://www.glosfamilies.org">www.glosfamilies.org</a></p>
<p>Early Help Partnership</p>	<p>Our local partnership can be contacted via emailing: <a href="mailto:earlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">earlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>All children receive Universal Services however some children will need extra support in order to be healthy, safe and to achieve their potential.</p> <p>We want all our children and young people, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), to achieve the best possible outcomes and receive the support they need when they need it most. We have built on the SEND pathway and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to develop one integrated, holistic Graduated Pathway of Early Help and Support. This pathway will enable practitioners to work with children, young people and their families ensuring they receive the right support when they need it most.</p> <p>The purpose of early help is to prevent issues and problems becoming serious and harmful to the child, young person, family and community. When children and families need this extra support, they need it quickly. Provision of early help support can be at all stages of a child's life: pre-birth, during pregnancy, childhood or adolescence.</p> <p><b>Early help in Gloucestershire</b></p> <p>In Gloucestershire, we believe that families are best supported by those who are already working with them, with additional support from local partners arranged as needed. Children and families are entitled to early help if and when they need it. It may also be provided through an increase in the levels of universal services, or services provided or commissioned in localities.</p> <p>When children and families need additional support, a coordinated multi-disciplinary approach led by a Lead Practitioner is usually best.</p> <p>When families -and professionals who are helping them - need more support, this can be requested from Early Help Partnerships. There are six Early Help Partnerships across Gloucestershire and each has a fortnightly Allocations Group. These are made up of representatives of services who decide the help that's needed and offer advice, guidance and support to Practitioners. These groups are supported by Families First Plus teams in each District.</p> <p>To access support, a Request for Support form needs to be completed along with a Consent form from the family and sent to your locality Families First Plus inbox. These forms can be found <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>In Gloucestershire, with partners, we have built on the positives of the Common</p>

	<p>Assessment Framework and SEND Graduated Pathway to develop one, holistic pathway of early help and support that meets the needs of all children and their families with additional needs. The developed pathway and supporting tools goes live on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.</p> <p>For more information please contact your local Families First Plus team:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Locality</th> <th>Email</th> <th>Telephone</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cheltenham</td> <td><a href="mailto:cheltenhamearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">cheltenhamearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></td> <td>01452 328160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cotswolds</td> <td><a href="mailto:cotswoldsearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">cotswoldsearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></td> <td>01452 328101</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forest of Dean</td> <td><a href="mailto:forestofdeanearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">forestofdeanearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></td> <td>01452 328048</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gloucester</td> <td><a href="mailto:gloucesterearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">gloucesterearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></td> <td>01452 328076</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stroud</td> <td><a href="mailto:stroudearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">stroudearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></td> <td>01452 328130</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tewkesbury</td> <td><a href="mailto:tewkesburyearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">tewkesburyearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></td> <td>01452 328250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Locality	Email	Telephone	Cheltenham	<a href="mailto:cheltenhamearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">cheltenhamearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>	01452 328160	Cotswolds	<a href="mailto:cotswoldsearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">cotswoldsearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>	01452 328101	Forest of Dean	<a href="mailto:forestofdeanearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">forestofdeanearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>	01452 328048	Gloucester	<a href="mailto:gloucesterearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">gloucesterearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>	01452 328076	Stroud	<a href="mailto:stroudearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">stroudearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>	01452 328130	Tewkesbury	<a href="mailto:tewkesburyearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">tewkesburyearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>	01452 328250
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Stroud	<a href="mailto:stroudearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">stroudearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>	01452 328130																				
Tewkesbury	<a href="mailto:tewkesburyearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk">tewkesburyearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>	01452 328250																				

<b>SEND Early Help Advisors</b> (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)	<p>Gloucester North, Cheltenham and Cotswold: Ruth Price 07796 610496          Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury: Kim Nicholls 07796 610433          Gloucester South, Stroud and Dursley: Catherine Hardwick 07909 937184</p>
<b>SEND Casework Team</b>	(01452) 427535 <a href="mailto:sengenq@gloucestershire.gov.uk">sengenq@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Advisory Teaching Service</b>	Forest of Dean 01594 823102
<b>Educational Psychology Service</b>	Forest of Dean 01452 328004
<b>Children and Families Help Desk</b>	01452 426565 <a href="mailto:childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk">childrenshelpdesk@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Drug Concerns</b>	<p><a href="http://www.infobuzz.co.uk/">www.infobuzz.co.uk/</a>: Info Buzz provides individual targeted support around drugs and emotionl health issues, development of personal and social skills, and information and support around substance misuse.</p> <p>Drugs education is covered in the school curriculum.</p>
<b>Mental Health concerns</b> CYPs _ Children and Young People's Services	<p>CYPs practitioners work with both children and family's where appropriate to address mental health isuuse when they are identified.</p> <p>Referral to them can be made by your own GP - this is normally the quickest route to support.</p> <p>School professionals and the school nursing service can also make referrals when needed.</p> <p>CYPs practitioners may also be invited to consultation meetings to discuss the needs of a child, without a formal referral being made. This would normally be discussed with parents before contct is made.</p> <p>CYPs practitioner advice line (for professionals to call): 01452 894272</p>
<b>Child sexual exploitation (CSE)</b>	<p>The suspicion by any adult of CSE taking place should be discussed in the first instance with the Designated Safeguarding Lead for our schools.</p> <p>CSE screening tool can be found at: <a href="http://www.gscb.org.uk/article/113294/Gloucestershire-procedures-and-protocols">www.gscb.org.uk/article/113294/Gloucestershire-procedures-and-protocols</a>. Clear information about warning signs, the screening tool and \gloucestershire's multi-agency protocol for safeguarding children at risk of CSE are at <a href="http://www.gscb.org">www.gscb.org</a>. Referrals should be made to Gloucestershire Social Care and the Gloucestershire Police.</p> <p>Gloucestershire Police CSE Team:          The CSE Team sits within the Public Protection Bureau Single Agency Team 01242 276846</p> <p>All referrals should go to the Central Referral Unit 01242 247999</p> <p>Further information: National Working Group: <a href="http://www.nationalworkinggroup.org">www.nationalworkinggroup.org</a> and PACE UK (parents against Sexual Exploitation) <a href="http://www.paceuk.info">www.paceuk.info</a></p>

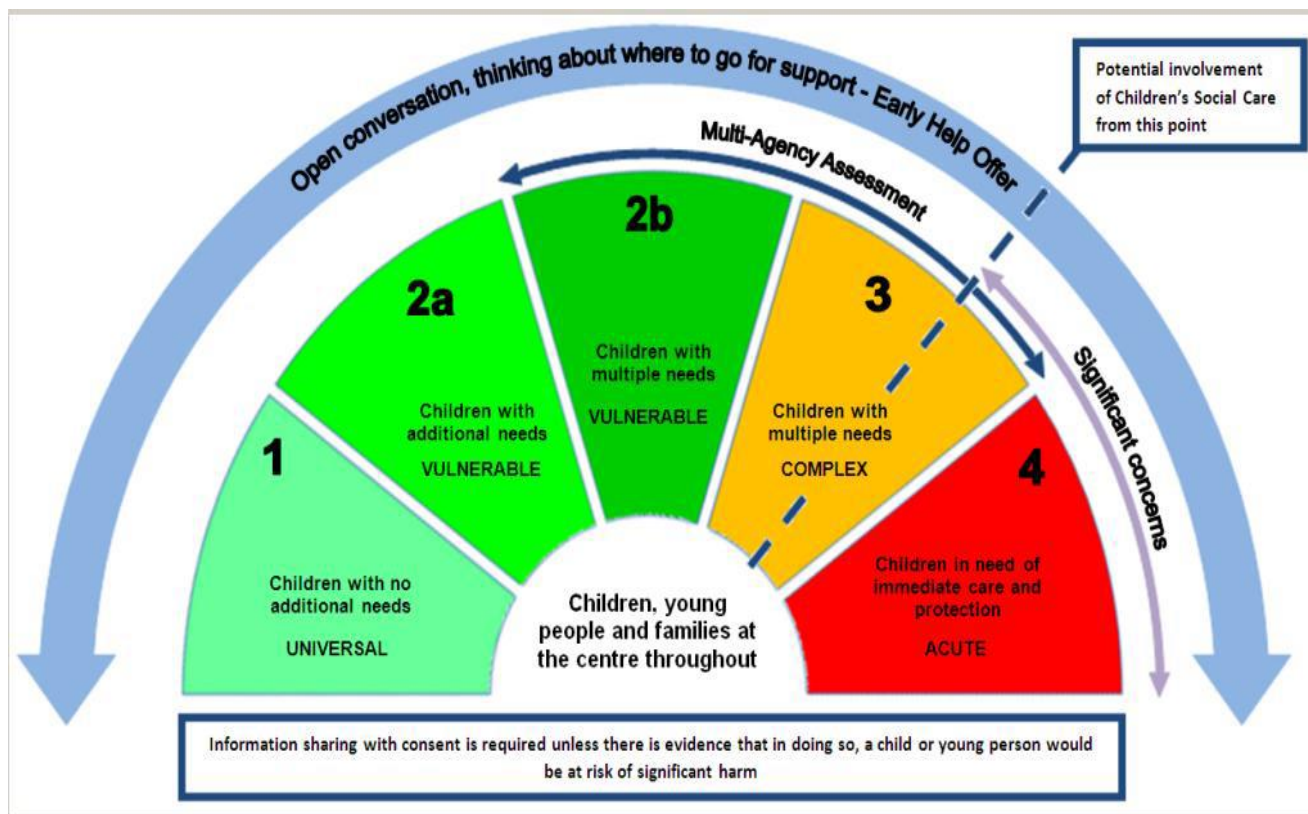
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	<p>The Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Board (GSCB) have published a domestic Abuse Pathway for educational settings which is available on their website. If a child or young person is suspected of living at home with domestic abuse then the usual procedures for safeguarding should be followed and a referral made to the children's helpdesk: 01452 426565.</p> <p>Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) <a href="http://www.gdass.org.uk">www.gdass.org.uk</a></p> <p>Gloucestershire Constabulary Multi Agency Risk Assessment  Conferences (MARACs) prioritise the safety of victims who have been risk assessed at high or very high risk of harm.</p>
<b>Gender based violence</b>	<p>For violence against Women and Girls (WAWG):</p> <p>Hope House Sexual Assault Referral Centre: 01452 754390</p> <p>Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre: 01452 526770</p> <p>'Ending violence against women and girls in the UK, 2014' at <a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>.</p>
<b>Parenting programmes</b>	<p>Triple P - Positive Parenting programme is a multi-level system of evidenced based education and support for parents and caregivers of children and adolescents. The system aims to give parents their 'parenting wings to fly' by engaging, encouraging, and empowering families to address common child and adolescent social, emotional and behavioural problems. <a href="http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/tripleP">www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/tripleP</a></p>
<b>Radicalisation</b>	<p>Gloucestershire Constabulary:101 or Jane Bee (Local Authority Designated Officer - LADO)</p> <p>Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789321</p> <p>Preventing radicalisation information can be found at: <a href="http://www.gscb.org.uk/article/120326/Radicalisation-Extremism">http://www.gscb.org.uk/article/120326/Radicalisation-Extremism</a>.</p>

Signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of governors              Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 1: The GCSB 'Continuum of Need'



Information in the table below has been designed to help identify which level of need a child/family is most likely to meet.

### Level 1

Children and young people are making good overall progress in all areas of development. They are likely to have a protective environment where their needs are well recognised and met. These children need no additional support other than that which is **universally** available from public services.

### Level 2a

Children and young people who need some **additional** support, without which they would be at risk of not reaching their full potential. The support they need may relate to their health, educational or social development. If not identified, and addressed at an early stage, these issues may go on to become more worrying concerns under level 2b or 3.

### Level 2b

Children, young people and their families have a range of needs. **Multi-agency** support is required to promote social inclusion, to reduce levels of vulnerability and/or to reduce risk taking behaviours. If needs are not met then children's health, social development, or educational attainment may be significantly impaired. A coordinated response, through an integrated multi-agency assessment will be required and a Lead Professional will coordinate support through the Team Around the Child (TAC). This also meets the need for a coordinated response where a child might have special educational needs.

### Level 3

Children with **complex** needs that may be chronic and enduring. These children will be those who are highly vulnerable or living in the greatest level of adversity. The needs of many of these children and young people can be met through an integrated multi-agency assessment and plan with a lead professional coordinating the support. However, there will be times when a child or young person requires specialist assessment and support from a range of agencies.

### Level 4

Children in need of **immediate care and protection**. This is the most urgent category and always requires an immediate referral to children's social care. There will be serious concerns about the health, care or development of a child. It may include serious family dysfunction e.g. a child who is lacking any boundaries, or a child who has been severely rejected. These children and young people would include those whose care is so compromised as to place them at risk of significant harm and in need of a Child Protection Plan, and all children and young people already subject of a Child Protection Plan. This level would also include children and young people whose care is so compromised as to possibly place them at risk of becoming looked after by the local authority, and all children and young people already looked after by the local authority.



## Graduated Pathway Flowchart

### – Early Help and Support for Children, Young People and Families What to do and How

Graduated Early Help and Support involves: identification; assessment; planning; providing services; and reviewing the plan.

At any time in early help work, if it is considered that a child is at immediate risk of significant harm, the practitioner must contact the Children & Families Help Desk.

Throughout any work with children, young people and their families, where practitioners have concerns or differences in opinion about the decisions or practice of others that they cannot resolve on their own, they can refer to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board Escalation Policy.

