



### What if I start an assessment and then change my mind?

The assessment is voluntary – it exists to help you and your child. If at any time, you change your mind and no longer want to carry on with it, then the assessment will be closed.

### What do I have to do?

Help us to help you and your child. The assessment relies on everyone keeping their word and doing what has been agreed. For this to work well – you should try to keep appointments that are made for your child, be open and honest about your child's situation, ask questions and generally get involved to ensure that using the assessment gets the best possible results for you and your family.



### Who will see my information?

You decide which services are allowed to see your information – these will be

the services you have agreed will help you e.g., the children's centre, school, health services, housing etc.

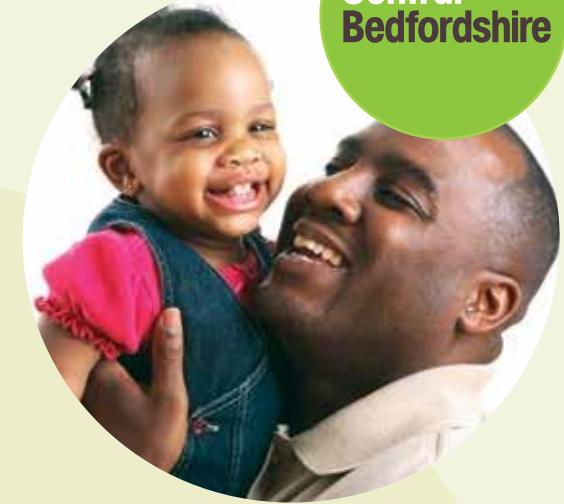
You can ask to see your form at any time and get a copy of it for your own records. The only time we will share your information without your consent is if we need to find out urgently if a child/young person or adult is at risk of harm or to help someone at risk of harm and to prevent or detect a serious crime.

### Keep in touch

You are encouraged to stay in touch with your Lead Professional, ask them any questions you have and tell them about any changes in your situation.

Lead Professional's full name:	
Lead Professional's role:	
Organisation:	
Tel:	
Email:	

Central Bedfordshire



# The Early Help Assessment

## Information for parents and carers

A great place to live and work.

Find us online  [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

# What is the Early Help Assessment?

**The Early Help Assessment (EHA) is a way of bringing together appropriate and relevant services to ensure children, young people and their families get the help and support they need.**

The assessment involves listening to you and your child and considering their needs as well as seeing what is working well in your child's life. By working together with you, we can help your child receive the right support at an early stage, before a small need grows into a larger one.

The assessment will ensure that everyone involved with your child, such as teachers, health visitors, nursery staff, or youth workers, work together to support your child. This will be recorded on to the EHA form and with your

agreement, can be shared so that you will not need to repeat the same information to different services.

The assessment can be used if you or someone who works with your child feels that they would benefit from extra support. It will identify your child's additional needs and other services required to support your family.

Once you understand what the assessment has to offer and would like to start using the process:



- You give basic details such as name, address and date of birth of the child/young person which will be recorded on to an EHA form.
- You then decide which services are allowed to see your details and give consent to the form being kept on file.
- A meeting called a 'Team Around the Child' (TAC) meeting is then arranged which you and your child (if appropriate) should attend.

- At the TAC meeting you and your child will help to decide what support you need and which services to involve. You will also agree a 'Lead Professional' who will be your main contact, giving you support, answering your questions, speaking on your behalf when you need them to and following up to make sure agreed actions are carried out.
- You will then meet again to look at what has worked and what still needs to be done until you are happy with the results achieved for you and your family.

## Can my child have an assessment without their parents/carers?

A young person (aged over 12) may wish to keep information confidential from parents and this will be respected if the Lead Professional feels it to be in the young person's best interests and welfare.

