

## **Quick Guide to Somerset's Early Help Assessment (EHA)** **sections 1-9**

When a child, young person or family is in need of support, it is important to identify the best way forward at the earliest opportunity. The Somerset Early Help Assessment (including the multi-agency request for involvement form) helps children, their family, and practitioners working with them to clearly record their current situation, strengths and needs, followed by a Team Around the Child (TAC) plan which will help the family to improve their lives. Please complete the form with the information you have – not all boxes need to be completed.

Sections 1-8 are for an assessment only; if following the completion of the assessment, you have identified that additional support is required from another early help service or a level 3/4 service (such as CAMHS, Youth Offending Team (YOT) or Children's Social Care (CSC), you will need to complete section 9.

This is the only form you can use to request support from these services. For more information about what services are included in the EHA process please visit the Children and young People's Services section on Professional Choices. <http://professionalchoices.org.uk/children-young-peoples-services/>

### **Assessment**

**Section 1** Child/young person's details.

**Section 2** Information about you the requester.

**Section 3** Consent for the assessment - this section **MUST** be completed. Complete the purple box for request for support from any service if you have consent.

Complete the red box for a level 4 safeguarding referral where you have assessed that to seek consent would place the child at risk. See page 7 of 'Effective Support for Children and Families in Somerset' for further information on consent.

<http://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/effectivesupport-documents/>

**Section 4 & 5** Information about the child/young person and family. Complete what you can, without duplication.

**Section 6a** List who you know is working with the family.

**Section 6b** Document the support the family have had from your service, and from other services that you are aware of. This is an important section to evidence previous support offered and its impact, on supporting the child and family.

**Section 7a-f** Assessment. This section should contain the reason why you are completing the assessment and should give clear reasons of your concerns and the



impact these concerns may/will have on the child/young person. Try to capture the child's voice, and consider what it is like being a child in this family.

**Section 7 h** – this box **MUST** be completed. Your assessment of the circumstances, in conjunction with the criteria in 'Effective Support for Children and Families in Somerset', and your professional opinion will determine the level of need. Early help is level 2 or 3, CAMHS, YOT or CSC are level 3 or 4, please check which level you assess the need to be.

**Section 8** - Tick the relevant boxes.

### **Request for support**

**Section 9** – This is consent to make a request for support at any level of need, and needs to be completed in addition to section 3. If you are making a level 4 safeguarding request without consent, use the red box and ensure you have completed section 3.

Selection table – 'choose an item' by using drop down box to indicate which service you require to support your referral. The correct email address will pop up.

### **Saving and sending the EHA**

Save completed documentation as a Word document. All EHAs must be emailed to the EHA coordinator at: [EHACoordinator@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:EHACoordinator@somerset.gov.uk). In addition you need to email the EHA to the service/s you have identified in section 9, using the email address that pops up for that service in the selection table – copy and paste this into your email.

For more information about EHAs, the 'Effective Support for Children and Families in Somerset' document, and other useful early help material, please visit <http://professionalchoices.org.uk/eha/>