



Early Help Clinic

1 - Purpose of the Early Help Clinic

Effective Early Help relies upon local organisations and agencies working together. Local authorities, under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, have a responsibility to promote inter-agency co-operation to improve the welfare of all children.

The RCBC Early Help Clinic is held once monthly with the aim of providing support and guidance to all practitioners who are working with families, children and young people at an Early Help level.

The clinic provides -

- Support and advice to practitioners on any Early Help cases.
- Group supervision to partners on 'stuck' cases.
- Encouragement and support with the completion and submission of EHA's by partner agencies.
- Identification of children and families who would benefit from an Early Help assessment.
- Support to practitioners to embed signs of wellbeing in their practice.
- Advice to practitioners where there has been ongoing multi-agency support via an EHA but no observed improvement to the child's outcomes, or where there has been an escalation of risk.

The clinic is facilitated by both an Early Help Coordinator and a Social Worker for safeguarding advice, in line with the Working Together guidance.

Practitioners can discuss cases where there is an emerging problem/s and potentially unmet needs of individual children and families. The Early Help Coordinator and Social Worker support the practitioner to identify what support is needed to ensure the needs of the children, young people do not escalate.

The cases are mapped, and a harm matrix populated to look at past and present harm; identifying a time span and the actions, experience and impact on the child/children, especially with cases where the practitioner has become 'stuck'.

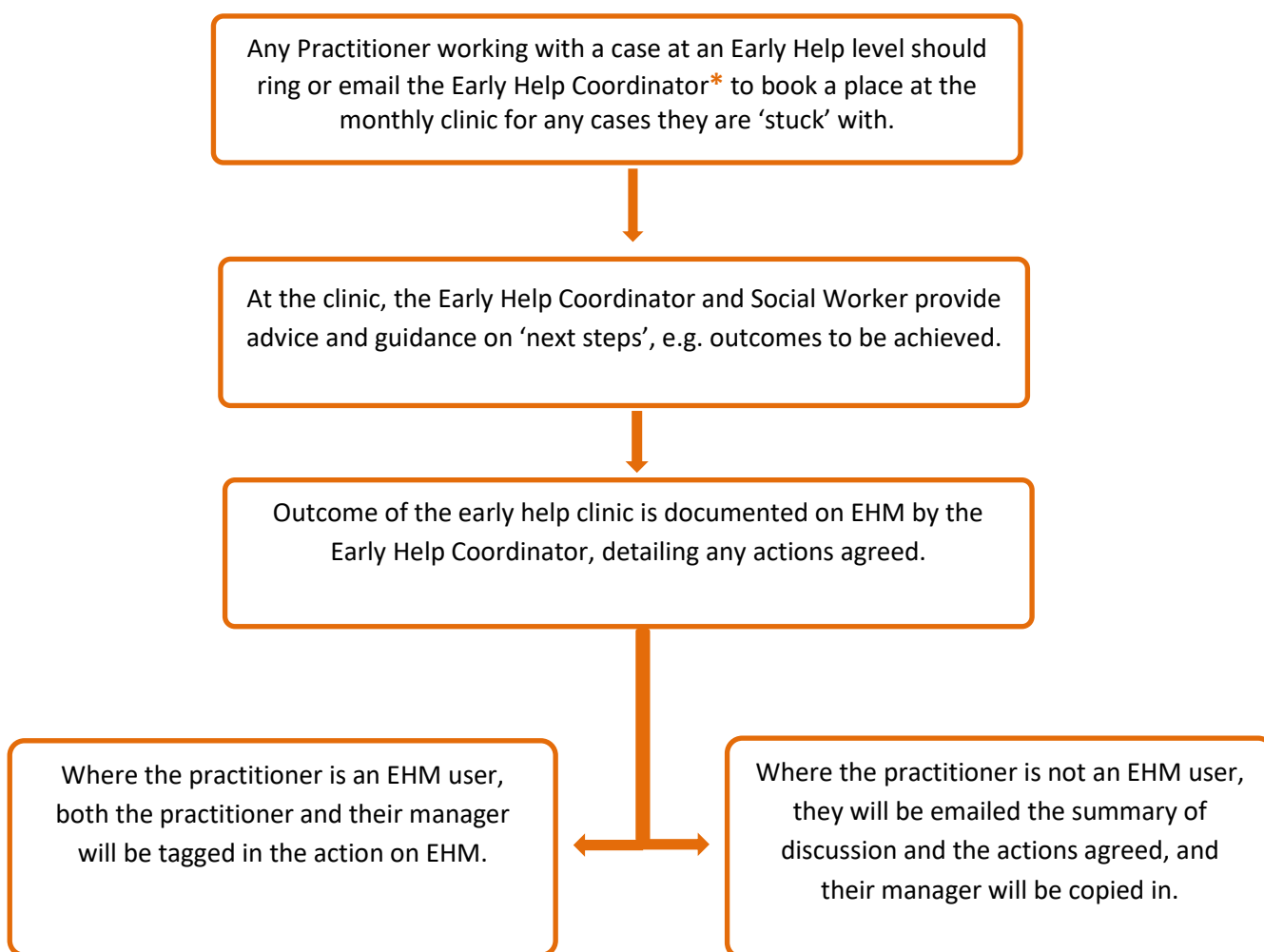
The clinic offers guidance to practitioners on using tools to gather the child's voice and on how to gather information for an Early Help assessment; supporting practitioners with creating their sharpest solution focussed questions to understand more about the family situation.

All actions are documented on EHM by the Early Help Coordinator after each session.

Should the outcome of the clinic be advice to submit a SAFER referral, where an Early Help assessment has already been undertaken, it should be used to support the submission of the referral to the MACH; however please note that this is not a prerequisite for making a SAFER referral.

2 Early Help Clinic Process

The monthly Early Help clinic is facilitated by both an Early Help Coordinator and a Social Worker for safeguarding advice, in line with the Working Together guidance.



*** Early Help Coordinators can be telephoned at the MACH on 01642 130678 or email:**

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