

Early Intervention and Prevention Framework

Support for babies, children, young people and families in Wales

A summary for young people



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Hello

The Welsh Government wants all children in Wales to have a good start in life.

In Wales, there is support for children, young people and families. It's there to stop problems getting bigger or situations getting worse.

Every family is different. Every home is different.

Sometimes things happen that make life harder. No one should have to struggle alone.

Needing help does not mean a family has failed. It does not mean anyone is "in trouble".



➔ This guide explains the Early Intervention and Prevention Framework in Wales.

It sets out how support works and why getting help quickly makes a big difference.

Every child should grow up in families where they feel safe, happy and healthy.

i Early Intervention – getting help early before a problem grows.

i Prevention – supporting people so problems are stopped before they start.

i Framework – sets out how things should happen.

Our goal

We want to make sure babies, children, young people and families get the right support at the right time.

We want to help families stay together whenever possible so fewer children end up in care.

If a child isn't safe at home, they might need to live somewhere safer. This might mean living with foster carers, relatives or in a children's home.



Why this is important



This framework helps health, social care, schools, and community services work together. It helps everyone understand what support is available and how it should work.

It also protects children's rights and the UNCRC.

This is for:



Families

so they know what support is available in every area and how to get it. This will help them connect with services sooner and stop problems getting worse.



Leaders and professionals

who plan and deliver services. This will help them work together and provide joined-up support. It will also help them check services and what needs to improve.



Foster carers, special guardians and kinship carers

so they understand how support works and how to get help.

i Kinship carer – family members or close family friends who look after a child.

i UNCRC – The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says children have the right to be safe, listened to, and treated fairly.



Why early help matters



Megan and Morgan see some floating rubbish.

They are pulling rubbish out of a river. But more rubbish keeps floating past.

Megan says, "Go and see what's happening further up the river."

Morgan walks upstream and finds a broken bin by a bridge.

He fixes the bin so rubbish cannot blow into the water.

Soon the river stays clean.



The point:

Sometimes the best way to solve a problem is to fix the cause.

Early help works the same way. It looks at:

- what might make life harder
- what helps children feel safe and do well.

It's important to help when there's an emergency. But it's even better to act early before things get that bad.

This means:

Helping every child grow up healthy, learn well, and feel good from the beginning.

Helping reduce the effects of challenges like money worries, stress, or difficult times.

Helping children build the things that make them feel safe and do well. This includes healthy relationships, feeling part of their community, and growing in confidence.

Supporting families so children grow up in safe caring homes and communities.

Working together to keep children and young people safe and included.



The right support, at the right time

Early intervention is about:

- noticing when babies, children, young people or families need support
- offering help before problems grow bigger.

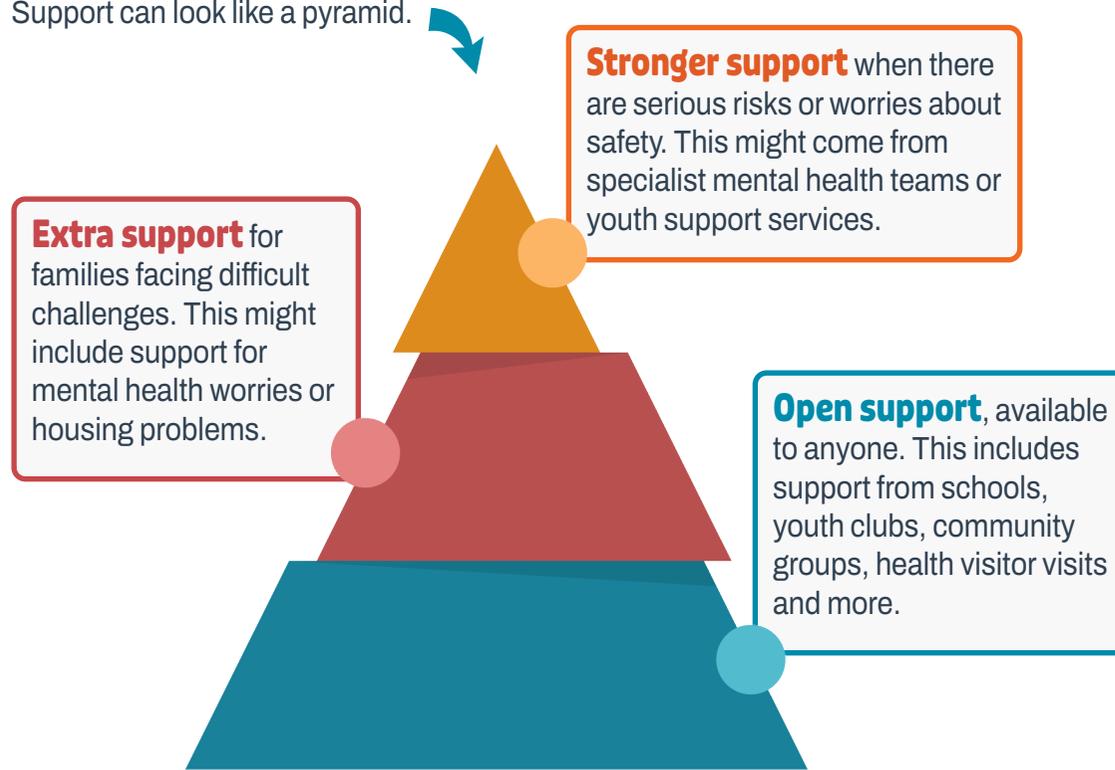
Prevention means:

- putting support in place so some problems don't happen in the first place.

The goal is to give the right help, at the right time, in the right ways.

Support looks different depending on what's needed. Services can work together to provide it. They work with the whole family and listen to children and young people.

Support can look like a pyramid.



As life changes, families can get support from different areas of the pyramid.

Real example:

Family Group Meetings in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Neath Port Talbot

At these meetings, families can talk with professionals about:

- what is going well
- what worries they have
- what might need to change.

Together, they make a plan to help keep the child safe and supported.

The plan can include members of the family who may not live with the children, like grandparents or close friends.

Professionals are there to listen, share advice, and help the family think things through.

The aim is to help families find their own answers and work things out early, before problems grow.



Outcomes – what getting help can do

When families get the right help, children can feel better and do better. It gives them a better chance to grow up happy, healthy, and ready for life.

Children are more likely to:

- be safe from harm
- enjoy learning and build new skills, like talking and communicating
- understand their feelings and learn how to manage them
- feel confident
- build positive relationships with their family, friends, and community.

Families are more likely to create safe and caring homes where children can grow and thrive.

Getting the right help can reduce things that make life harder — money worries, health problems, or mental health difficulties.



Real example:

For Dads, By Dads in Torfaen

This project is for new and expectant Dads with young babies. It gives them a safe space to:

- ask questions
- learn about health and parenting
- talk about the changes that come with having a child.

The sessions cover topics such as wellbeing, healthy living, and support from professionals.

The aim is to help dads feel more confident and prepared.



Getting support – what you can expect

It should be easy to get help when you need it.

Wherever you ask for support, someone should listen and point you towards the support you need.

i No wrong door – you should never feel like you've come to the wrong place. The person you speak to should listen and help you find the right support, even if they're not the one who gives it.

Your support should be available in the language you feel most comfortable using. The Active Offer means you should be offered services in Welsh without having to ask for it.

Your support should be as close to where you live as possible.

Support should work with you and your family and make sure you are:

- treated with care and respect
- listened to and included in decisions.

Different services should share information and know your story so you don't have to explain everything in your life, over and over again.

Support should be kind and understanding. Adults should understand and be trauma-informed and realise how hard experiences can affect your life.

i Trauma-informed – offering support in a way that feels safe and understands that past experiences can still affect people today.

Support should change as your situation changes.

Real example:

Parental Advocacy Across Wales

Parental Advocacy supports parents with someone who is not involved as a professional, when they're getting support from services. They help parents:

- understand meetings and plans
- ask questions
- share their views and feelings
- take part in decisions about their child.

The aim is to help parents feel more confident and included.

i An advocate — someone on your side. They help you say what you think and make sure people listen.



Checking support is working

Services across Wales don't just give support. They also check whether that help is making a difference. Services use different tools and ways to see if progress is being made over time. They check to see if children and young people are:

- safe
- healthy
- treated with respect
- supported in school and learning well
- listened to and able to share their views
- living in safe homes
- given the chance to do well in life.

They will also listen to children and families about their experiences of support. This helps them improve.



Thanks for reading

You can read more about the Framework here:

www.gov.wales/transformation-programme-childrens-services-legacy-report

