



Rutland
County Council

**Families First – Rutland’s Strategy
for Early Help**



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This document outlines Rutland County Council’s Early Help Offer and informs the approach we, with partners, take in working with children and families.

Our Early Help Offer takes into account national research and reviews by Frank Field, Dame Clare Tickell and Graham Allen, with regards to the importance of the early years and the impact of growing up in poverty on a child’s outcomes. Our offer also takes into



account key messages from Working Together to Safeguard Children, DfE 2013 (revised 2015) and the Munro recommendations 2013, as follows:

- preventative services will do more to reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services
- co-ordination of services is important to maximise efficiency
- with preventative services, there needs to be good mechanisms for helping people identify those children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer harm from abuse and neglect and who need referral to children’s social care.
- reducing pressure on specialist services

What we do know is that:

- There are 7,733 children and young people aged 0 to 17 years which is 20% of Rutland’s population. This is slightly lower than the equivalent figure for England (21.3%) [ONS Mid-Year Estimate, 2016]
 - 13.9% of Rutland’s children live in poverty (after housing costs, 2015), making Rutland one of the 20 Local Authorities with the lowest levels of child poverty in the UK [Source: End Child Poverty, November 2016]
 - 2.4% of children in nurseries are in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) [Source: October 2017 Rutland school census¹]
- Nationally, we know the level of achievement for children eligible for FSMs is well below the equivalent figure for those not eligible. Comparing data for children eligible for FSM in Rutland with the national cohort, shows a variable picture across different measures and Key Stages of education:

¹ Figure only includes nursery aged children in Rutland school provisions who are included in the school census, and not those who are included within the Early Years census (which is the larger cohort of nursery children).

Percentage achieving the expected standard by Key Stage, 2017 (unless stated)	National	Rutland	Difference ¹
EYFSP (GLD)	56%	64%	+8
Phonics (year 1)	68%	63%	-5
Key Stage 1 – Reading	61%	75%	+14
Key Stage 1 – Writing	52%	69%	+17
Key Stage 1 – Maths	60%	56%	-4
Key Stage 2 – Reading, Writing & Maths ²	43%	44%	+1
Key Stage 4 – Average Attainment 8 Score ²	49.0	39.1	-9.9

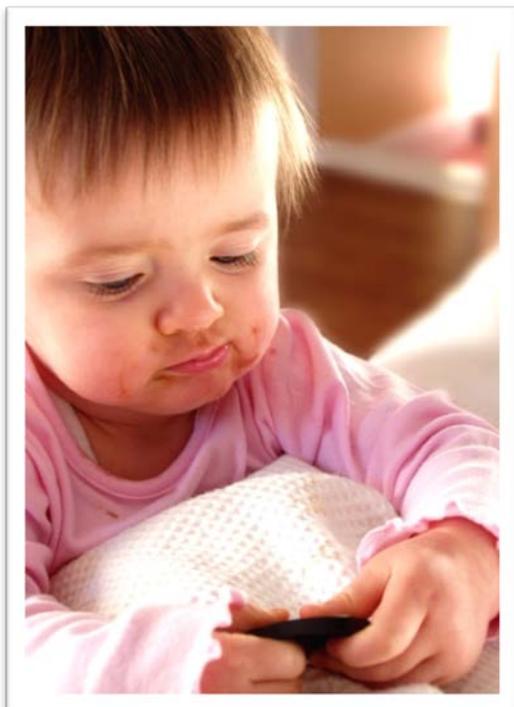
¹ Difference is percentage points, apart from KS4 which is an average score

² Figures for KS2 and KS4 are for 2016 as 2017 data not available at time of publication.

- 22.3% of pupils attending Rutland schools were eligible for support via Pupil Premium in 2017/18
- 337 children and young people subject to a social care referral during 2016/17. This is a reduction from 2015/16 where 366 children and young were subject to a referral. In 2017/18 our projections (as of January 2018) show that around 287 children will be subject to a referral. The most significant presenting issue is abuse and neglect
- 206 young people (aged under 25 years) reported that they provided some unpaid care, which is 1.9% of all young people in this age group. 60 of those providing unpaid care were aged under 16 years. The amount of unpaid care provided was as follows:
 - 184 young people provided between 1 and 19 hours of unpaid care per week;
 - 9 young people provided between 20 and 49 hours of unpaid care per week;
 - 13 young people reported that they provide over 50 hours of unpaid care per week. [Source: 2011 Census]
 - In January 2018, 57 young carers are known to Rutland County Council, 46 of which are supported by young carer groups and 30 of which have a social care or early help worker involved with their family.
- In 2017, 188 children and young people had a statement or Education Health & Care Plan (EHC Plan), similar to the previous year (186 in 2016) and up slightly on the year before (168 in 2015). In 2017, just over three-quarters of new EHC Plans (77.3%) were issued within 20 weeks in Rutland, much higher than the comparative figure for England (59.3%) and for those local authorities 'most similar' to Rutland (59.3%). [Source: Statements of SEN and EHC Plans: England, 2017, SFR22/2017]

1. Introduction

What is the Early Help Offer?



1. Rutland's Early Help Offer describes the help for children and families as soon as problems start to emerge, or when there is a strong likelihood that problems will emerge in the future in relation to, for example, emotional and behavioural difficulties, risk of criminal activity or parental neglect of needs.

The Early Help Offer is not just for very young children as problems may also emerge at any point throughout childhood and adolescence. The Early Help Offer includes universal services, such as schools, health visiting and GP services, or adult learning programmes and targeted services, such as one to one family support in the home, or the Aiming High for disabled children service, designed to reduce or prevent specific problems from escalating or becoming entrenched.

Early Help in **Rutland** means:

- **providing support as soon as a problem emerges**, at any point in a child's life, from the early years through to teenage years:
- **preventing the problems occurring** - providing targeted early help before any social care intervention, or adding value and collaboration to a social care intervention
- **preventing problems escalating** and also 'step down' from social care, where the aim is to prevent re-escalation and further statutory intervention, reducing the severity of problems.

Key Principles

Rutland County Council and its partner's commitment to Early Help is central to the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan with Early Help cutting across key priority outcomes which are underpinned by a key set of principles, as set out in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) *Thresholds Document* (2016):

Principles underpinning early help and prevention

1. We will understand the needs of children and their family so that the support offered is appropriate and can be addressed in the context of the whole family.

2. We acknowledge that parents and carers have primary responsibility for, and are the main influence on their children. Our role is to strengthen parenting capacity, whilst remaining clear about our duty to safeguard vulnerable children and young people.
3. The activities and services we offer to children and families will help build and strengthen resilience.
4. We will focus on strengths in families and engage families with their consent so that they identify what they want to change and how they will help achieve this.
5. Practitioners will take a shared responsibility to provide a seamless service for families, ensuring there are clear pathways for those accessing our services, reduce duplication of assessment so that families do not tell their stories multiple times.
6. Our workforce will be supported to be multi-skilled and to be able to support a range of needs and approaches when working with families, for example adopting the principle of the Signs of Safety model of working with families to identify strengths and resolving challenges.
7. The services we deliver will be cost effective and utilise shared resource across partnerships.

Performance and Outcomes

Rutland's Children's Trust will monitor whether the outcomes for children and their families are being achieved and will agree the key performance indicators which will help us to measure the impact our Early Help Offer is having.

These key performance indicators include priority outcomes such as:

- Reduction in inappropriate referrals and re-referrals to social care
- Sustained engagement of families in our Children Centre services
- More young people and adults supported into training and employment
- Children and their families experience improvements in their life at the end of an intervention.

Key features of the Early Help Offer

Rutland County Council provides the 'front door' through which parents and professionals can access additional support at any level, including early help advice and support.



The critical features of an effective Early Help Offer which have been identified nationally and on which Rutland's early help process is founded are:

- a multi-disciplinary approach that brings a range of professional skills and expertise to bear through a “**Team Around The Family**” approach
- a relationship with a trusted **Lead Professional** who can engage the child and their family, and/or co-ordinate the support needed from other agencies
- practice that empowers families and helps them to develop the capacity to resolve their own problems
- a holistic approach that addresses children's needs in the wider family and community context
- simple, streamlined referral and assessment processes that are easy to access for families and easy for partners to understand

Our Early Help Offer recognises the crucial role that all family members – not just mothers and fathers, but step parents, grandparents, siblings and other extended family members and carers – play in influencing what children experience and achieve as well as the consequences when families are in difficulty.

2. Identifying children and families who would benefit from early help

Working Together to Safeguard Children DfE 2013 (revised 2015), emphasises the importance of early help in promoting the welfare of children, together with clear arrangements for collaboration. Our Early Help Offer therefore puts the responsibility on all professionals to identify emerging problems and to take professional responsibility to ensure that if a family does not meet the thresholds for specific services, that action is taken to prevent the lower level needs escalating.



Key professionals working in universal services in Rutland are best placed to identify children or their families, who are at risk of poor outcomes. Alongside this, we utilise local intelligence such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and data collated in respect of our Changing Lives Programme, which is Rutland's contribution to the national Troubled Families Programme.

3. Who can Access Support?

The provision of early help services forms part of Rutland's continuum of help and support to respond to the different levels of need of our individual children and

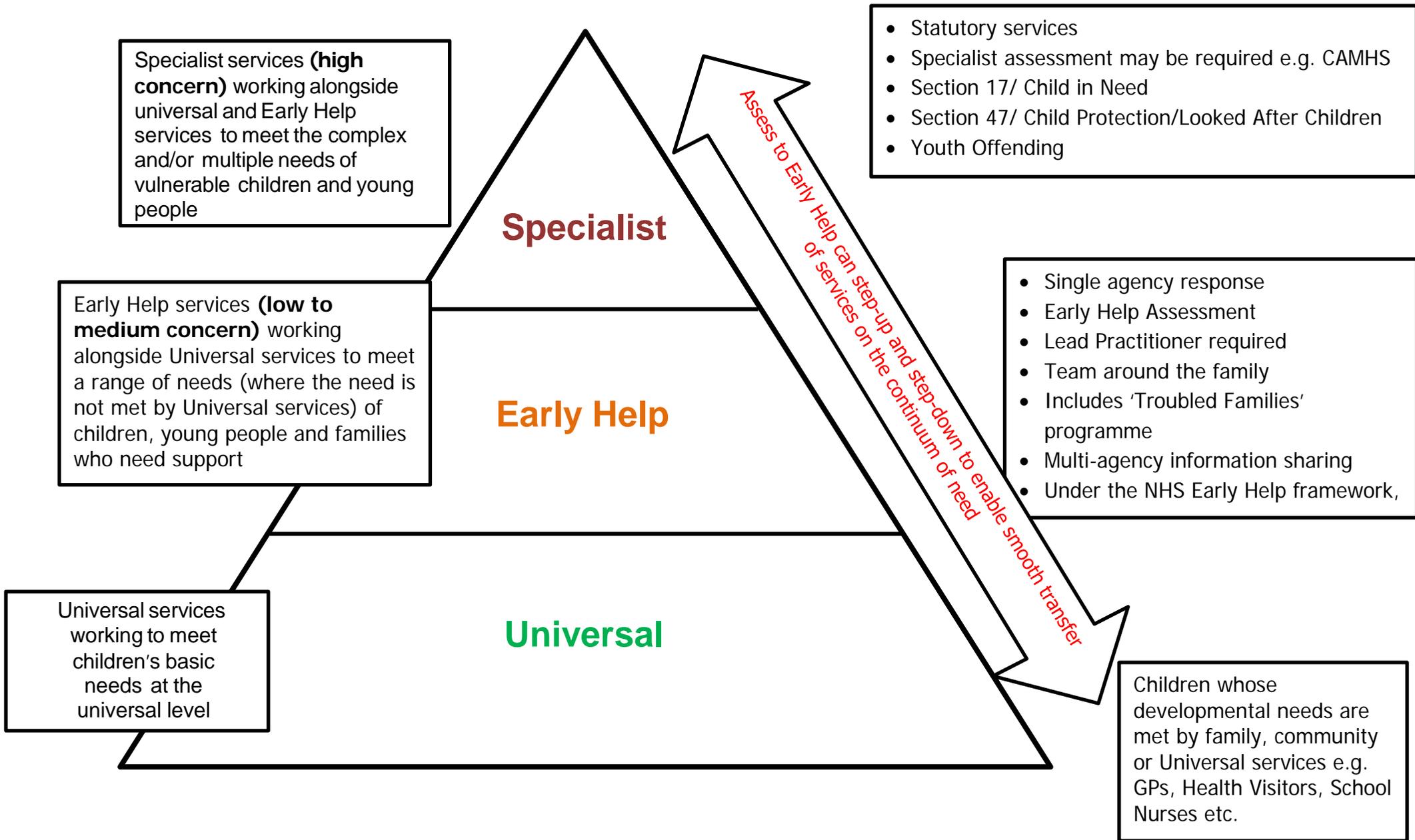
families. In Rutland we describe these as follows:

Universal need - Services working with children and families, to promote positive outcomes for everyone; midwives, health visitors, schools and early year's settings, adult learning and community voluntary groups. Practitioners working in these services should identify where children and families would benefit from extra help at an early stage.

Early Help and Targeted need - Services focus on children, young people and families who may need support either through a single service or through an integrated multi-agency response, for example, housing, youth options, and community safety. They work with families where there are signs that without support a child may not achieve good outcomes and fulfil their potential.

Specialist need - Services, such as social care, adult mental health services, focus on families with individual or multiple complex needs, who are at risk of significant harm or significant impairment to their health or development, including where help has been requested through Section 17 - a child in need - and Section 47, where there is a need to investigate a significant safeguarding concern or where a specific disability or condition is diagnosed.

Our Early Help model is made up of a combination of services structured around the 4 levels of need, allowing children and families support at the right time and at a level relevant to their need:



This document should be read in conjunction with the LLR LSCB Thresholds document:

Thresholds for access to services for children and families:

<http://lrsb.org.uk/uploads/view-the-llr-lscb-thresholds-for-access-to-services-for-children-and-families-in-leicester-leicestershire-rutland.pdf>

4. How to access early help

To ensure that the best possible support is provided to children and families, there needs to be an early assessment of need considering a child's developmental needs, family and environmental factors and parenting capacity.

In Rutland, this assessment is undertaken through usage of the Early Help Assessment, formerly the Common Assessment framework (CAF). For a full step by step guide to the Early Help Assessment see:

<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-services/health-and-family/early-help/early-help-assessments/>

In some cases a professional will be able to identify a specific need, but may not be able to provide appropriate support. In this instance the Early Help Coordinator (RCC) will signpost the referrer to the appropriate services.

Where the assessment identifies support needs that cannot be met by a single agency or service, there needs to be a coordinated response with local agencies working together to support the family. The Team around the Family (TAF) model is used in Rutland to bring together a range of different practitioners from across the children and young people's workforce and sometimes from adult services. The members of the TAF develop and deliver a solution focused plan of support to meet the needs identified through the Early Help Assessment, with a lead professional identified to co-ordinate the support and act as the key point of contact for the family and agencies. Decisions about who should be the lead professional should be informed by the child and their family.

The Early Help Coordinator is available to support practitioners in the lead professional role.

5. Our success criteria and outcomes

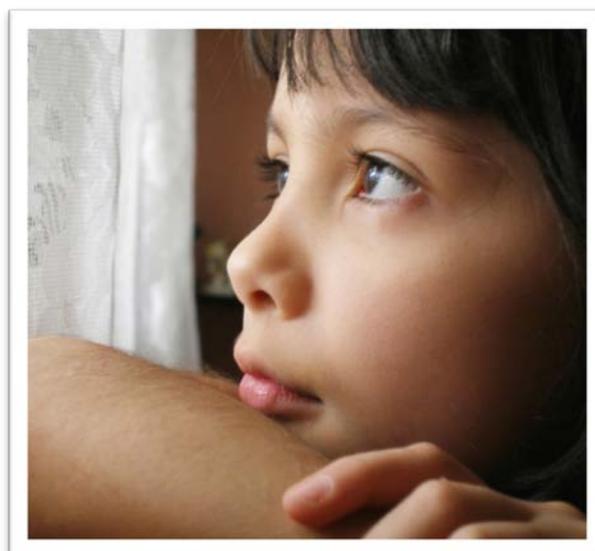
Our Early Help Offer is targeted at achieving our priorities for children and families as set out in the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-2019 and the LSCB Business Plan 2017/2018. We have identified key actions that will help us to achieve these outcomes.

Our Actions

1. We identify when children and families need help at the earliest opportunity through robust partnership working and shared intelligence. This will include developing robust front door arrangements.
2. We utilise our Changing Lives programme to create sustainable improvements by tackling the root causes of problems and the factors we know correlate toward negative outcomes for children and families e.g. unemployment, poverty, poor health, family breakdown and generational difficulties.
3. We provide a range of integrated services across early years and in to adulthood. These services will support prospective parents, children in early years, in teenage life and through into early adulthood.
4. We support children with additional needs and their parents and carers in a way that enables them to engage in positive activities in their community.
5. We work across children and adult services to adopt a whole family approach when working with families, ensuring our support recognises all the influencing factors on a child or young person's life.

6. Our Children and Young People and Families Plan

Rutland's Children's Trust has a Children Young People and Families Plan for 2016 to 2019 which has local priorities identified each year and the outcome monitored twice yearly. Rutland County Council has a document that describes the transfer process for cases that may be escalating to social care or that may be stepping down from social care. The LLR LSCB Thresholds document (2016) describes levels of need in families and the relevant responses that can be delivered by universal, early help/targeted or specialist services.



The Early Help Offer across the partnership in Rutland continues to be developed to ensure that an Early Help Offer is coordinated and clearly understood by practitioners and managers in the Council and across the partnership, and for these activities to be robustly driven forward by the Children's Trust.

Rutland County Council and its partners have a set of priority development themes which are:

1. Building strong partnerships in and beyond the organisation
2. A simple Early Help Assessment and a clear pathway to early help services
3. Working across children and adult services to provide a whole family approach
4. A targeted youth offer that is contributing to safeguarding children and young people
5. Children and young people engaged and participating in shaping early help and disability services
6. A well trained integrated children's workforce
7. Creating sustainability by drawing on existing resources in the community.

References

1. Working Together to Safeguard Children – A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (March 2013, revised 2015)
2. Field, F. (2010) The Foundation Years: preventing poor children becoming poor adults
3. Tickell, C, (2010), The Early Years: Foundations for life, health and learning
4. Allen, G (2011), Early Intervention: the next steps
5. Munro, E. (2011), The Munro Review of Child Protection ;Final report A child – centered system



Referral Pathway to All Rutland's Children's Services – December 2017

General enquiries and information about services and support for Children and Families
 For information about services, organisations, events and activities, please visit the RCC Services Directory at http://www.rutland.gov.uk/education_and_learning/family_information_service.aspx where you will find information relating to services for:

- Families, children and young people aged 0-19 years
- Families with children and young people who have special education needs and disabilities aged 0-25 years (The SEND Local Offer) *

Concern raised about a child or a child in need of support?
 Professionals working with children, young people and families
 Member of the public
 Parents/Carers/Children/Young People

Contact the RAIS (Referral, Assessment & Intervention Service) providing integrated support for children
 Telephone – 01572 722577 ext. 8407
Option 1 – Concerns about a child's welfare/ safety
Option 2 – Support services and advice and guidance, such as Early Help/ SEND/ Inclusion
Option 3 – If you know the extension you require, please dial this now)

Safeguarding Emergencies only - outside office hours and at weekends and bank holidays: Tel: (0116) 305 0005 - OR the police: Tel: (0116) 222 2222
 Or email childrensreferrals@rutland.gcsx.gov.uk
 Or earlyhelp@rutland.gcsx.gov.uk – Only if your enquiry is not concerning the welfare or safety of a child

Option 1 – Concern about a child's welfare/ safety
 Calls will be screened by the RAIS Social Worker
 (Supported by Early Help Coordinator)

Option 2 – Support services and advice and guidance, such as Early Help/ SEND/ Inclusion
 Initial screening by an Early Help Coordinator
 (Supported by the RAIS Social Worker)



Safeguarding or Child in Need

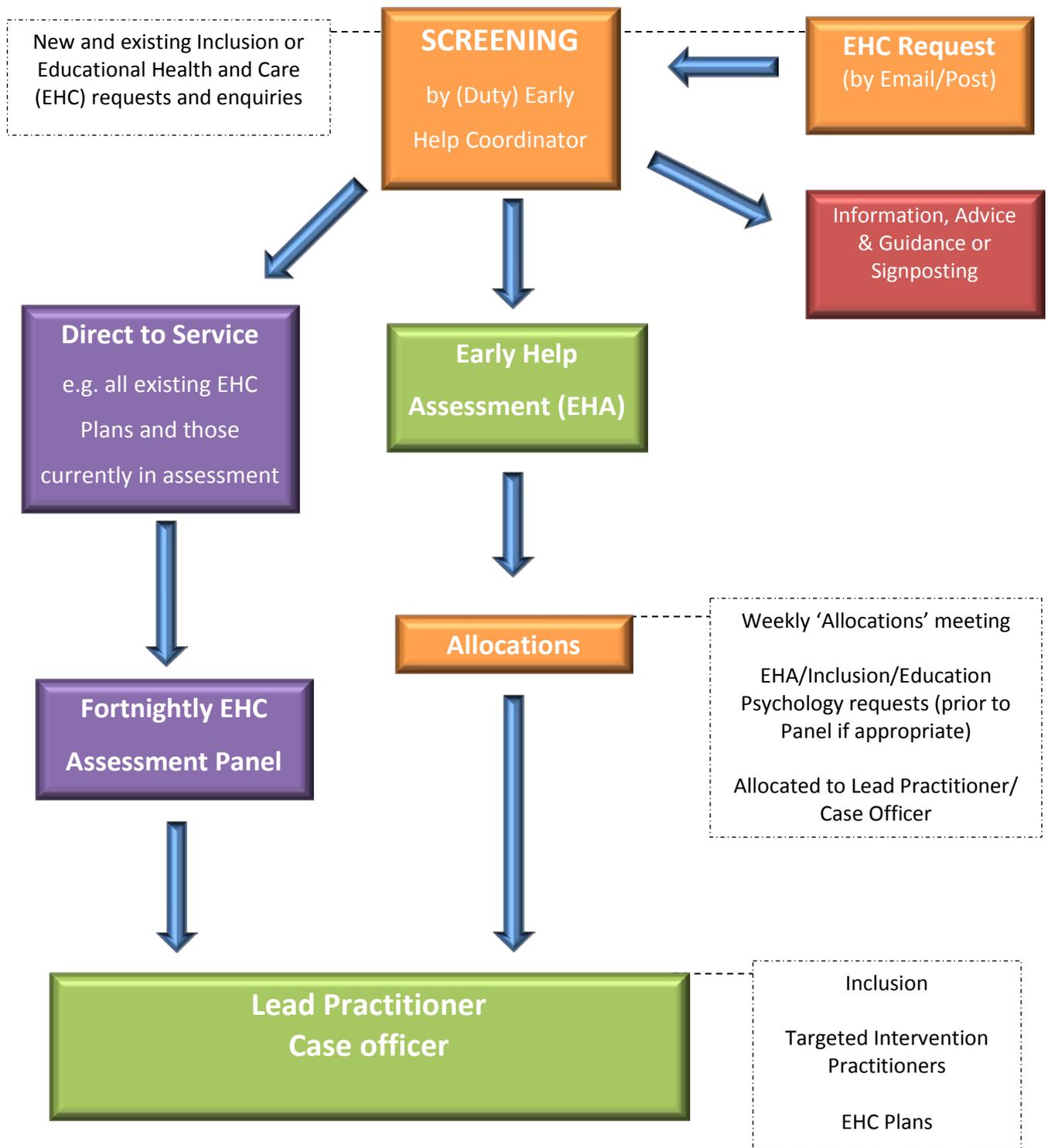
Safeguarding/ Child in Need
 Threshold met for social care intervention
 RAIS Social Worker commences Single Assessment
 Outcome recorded
 Referrer advised
 Where s47 this will be completed by RAIS Team
 Where s47 and child is known to the CWD Social Worker this will pass to the CWD Social Worker and Manager to complete

Children in Need - with a Disability
 Threshold met for social care intervention for Child with a Disability
 Child with Disability Social Worker commences Single Assessment
 RAIS Team complete Single Assessment when disability not ascertained at point of referral
 Outcome recorded
 Referrer advised

Early Help Assessment or Targeted Intervention/ Educational Health & Care/Inclusion
 Does not meet threshold for Social Care statutory intervention.
 Single-agency/Multi-agency response and Early Help Assessment needed
 Referral supported by Early Help Co-ordinator and directed to Early Help services, Targeted Intervention/ Inclusion (SEND) Service
 Outcome recorded

Information, Advice and Guidance
 Does not meet threshold for any statutory intervention
 Can be supported in Universal Services
 Referrer advised and information provided
 Outcome recorded

Option 2 - Support services, such as Early Help/ SEND/ Inclusion



Useful Contacts:

Rutland County Council
<http://www.rutland.gov.uk/>

Rutland Family Information Service
<http://ris.rutland.gov.uk/kb5/rutland/directory/home.page>

Rutland Children's Duty Team
Email: childrensduty@rutland.gcsx.gov.uk

Rutland Early Help Team
Email: EarlyHelp@rutland.gcsx.gov.uk

Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)
www.lrsb.org.uk

Thresholds of Access to Services for Children and Families in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland
<http://lrsb.org.uk/uploads/view-the-lrsb-lscb-thresholds-for-access-to-services-for-children-and-families-in-leicester-leicestershire-rutland.pdf>

Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2015)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf

NSPCC
<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Citizens Advice
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>