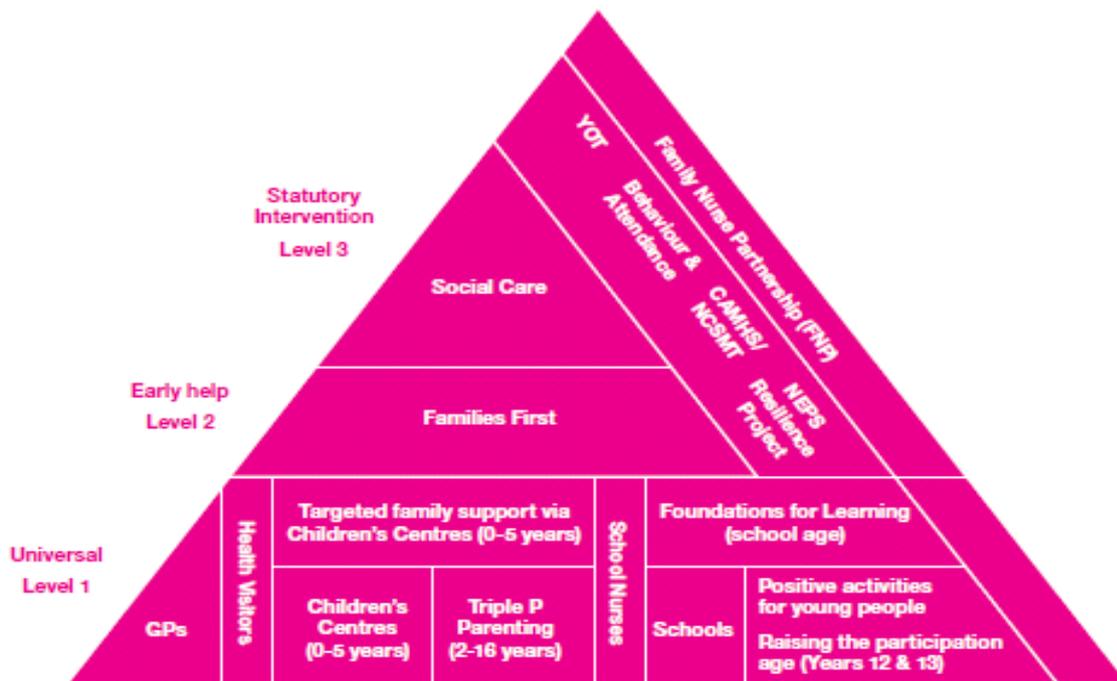


An introduction to Early Help services in Newham

‘Early help’ is the principle of providing at an early point, support to children, young people and families to maximise their life chances and prevent more complex problems emerging further down the line. This requires a strong focus on building resilience, supporting children, young people and families to develop the skills and capabilities that enable them to navigate the challenges of modern life. Early help is critical to the effective delivery of children’s services in Newham, both in terms of improving outcomes for children and families and also to reduce the demand for statutory interventions, particularly from social care and youth offending services.

The diagram below provides a snapshot of the range of services providing help and protection to children, young people and families in Newham. We have strong universal services for all children and young people in Newham. Our schools, health visitors, Children's Centres and school nurses achieve good outcomes for our children, young people and families. These universal services represent the first tier of early help, providing children and young people with a strong foundation for a positive journey into adulthood.



The early help offer is designed to support Newham’s universal services to address the needs of children and families, especially those with needs at Level 1b on the diagram as and when they emerge, intervening early to prevent issues from escalating or becoming entrenched.

The Early Help Offer in Newham

The Early Help Framework & Early Help Record

The Early Help Framework provides a clear process for identifying families that need additional help, understanding the issues they face and planning interventions to address those issues. The Early Help Framework is used by schools, health visitors, children's centres, GPs, youth service and other partners in the community. Over 160 practitioners in schools, children's centres and other universal services have been trained to use the Early Help Record, a structured mechanism for planning and reviewing work with vulnerable children to ensure they achieve positive outcomes. An [Early Help Framework Toolkit](#) has been created to help practitioners to use the Early Help Record.

Best Start in Life

Newham is committed to maintaining a free, universal, local offer to support expectant parents and families with children aged 0-4 to give their child the best start in life. The evidence for this is clear: investment in the early years is critical to securing positive outcomes later in life. The Best Start in Life (BSiL) 'guarantee' to families begins with a strong health offer from pregnancy and provides support to parents throughout the early stages of their child's life. The programme integrates health, early learning and parenting practitioners and will be delivered from a range of neighbourhood venues including one Children's Centre in each of Newham eight community neighbourhoods, as well as a range of community venues including libraries and schools.

During June and July 2015 we will be carrying out a [consultation](#) process with parents, early years professionals, schools and local councillors to determine the best delivery model of delivery for BSiL with a view to launching the Best Start in Life guarantee by the end of 2015.

Foundations for Learning (FFL)

FFL is a new programme to support children who are struggling at school due to emerging emotional and behavioural concerns and/or low level issues within their families. The FFL programme focuses on providing support in school, using the Early Help Record to ensure that systems are in place to identify needs early and deliver positive outcomes for children & young people.

In addition to these universal services, we offer a range of additional early help services to provide more intensive and or specialist support to those with needs at Level Levels 2 and 3 on our continuum of need. This is supported by robust mechanisms for 'step up and step down' from any level. Our flagship Level 2 service is the **Families First** service which involves delivery by the local authority and commissioned delivery partners providing intensive intervention to a minimum of 450 families per year. **Family Nurse Partnership** is an intensive, structured home visiting programme delivered by specially trained nurses aimed at first time mums, under the age of twenty. The programme is designed to enable mums to achieve the best health possible during pregnancy, plan towards achieving positive health outcomes for their child and achieve their personal aspirations and goals.

Early Help services can be accessed either directly via the child's school or children's centre or via Children's Triage service, the single point of contact for requests for support or protection for

vulnerable children and young people in Newham. The Triage on-line portal is accessed via www.newham.gov.uk/triage