

**MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL**

**EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION  
A STRATEGY  
FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE  
AND THEIR FAMILIES  
IN MIDLOTHIAN.**



## Our Wider Service: Vision and Values

The Early Intervention and Prevention (EI&P) team is a proactive support service which is a key component of the wider Children Service's Team. Our service area makes an important contribution to the Children Service's overarching vision to:

*Improve families' lives by giving them the support they need, when they need it*

Our work is underpinned by the values associated with Social Services in Scotland: **ethical awareness, professional integrity, respect for human rights and a commitment to promoting social justice**, as well as Midlothian Council's 5 core CREST values:

- **Celebrate**
- **Respect**
- **Excellence**
- **Support and**
- **Together**

## Our Specific Vision and Aims:

The vision for EI&P in Midlothian is to:

*Work with our partners to ensure early identification and intervention with children, young people and their families. To ultimately support parents and carers to nurture children who are safe, healthy, resilient and achieving their potential.*

EI&P aims to:

- Keep children safe, and where possible at home with their families.
- Prevent statutory intervention where possible
- Reduce risk and promote protective factors
- Support the needs of vulnerable children, young people and their families
- Build resilience and increase capacity to manage challenging circumstances
- Secure better outcomes for children in Midlothian
- Provide a proactive, needs led, outcomes focused service
- Work with children and families sooner and/or divert them to appropriate services at the earliest opportunity
- Support partners to work together to be more effective in utilising local resources
- Develop innovative partnerships who co design and co deliver services
- Provide evidence based support and interventions
- Provide effective early intervention to prevent long term spending.

## **Unique Community Context**

Our work is shaped by the unique context of the communities we serve. Our strategic planning recognises the following:

- Midlothian has the fastest growing population in Scotland
- Most new-built houses are for larger families
- The population 'swell' between 0-15 year olds and 30-59 year olds
- Referral statistics indicate an increasing need for input from Children and Families' services
- The provision of EI&P has supported us to sustain below national average number of children on the child protection register
- To date EI&P has supported a lower number of children looked after and accommodated than the national average
- We have a slightly higher number of children looked after at home than the national average which supports our vision that children remain at home where possible.

We recognise the financial climate and despite these challenges we remain committed to delivering high quality support to the children and families of Midlothian. We will continue to develop innovative partnerships which provide both value for money as well as affect sustainable change.

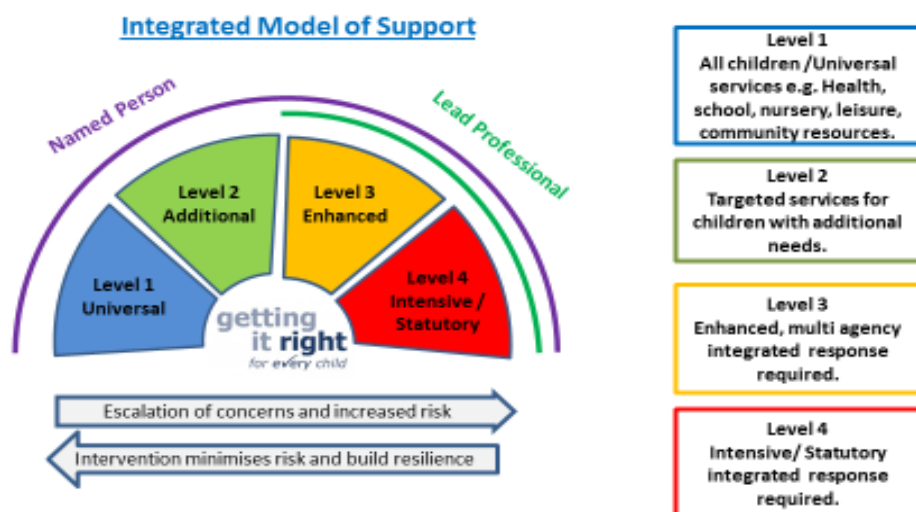
## **EI&P Service Structure**

Early Intervention and Prevention (EI&P) consists of three practice teams, two Development Officers and a Service Manager. Each EI&P team is comprised of Social Workers and Children & Families Practitioners reporting directly to a Team Leader.

The Early Intervention and Prevention Teams undertake assessment and intervention work. The purpose of this work is to work voluntarily with families to prevent long term statutory intervention. For families who require longer term interventions the teams will work closely with the 0-12 and 12 plus practice teams to ensure long term support is provided.

## **How we work**

Midlothian Council is committed to Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and has adopted the Integrated Support practice model, consisting of 4 levels. This model aims to provide a shared, coordinated approach across all agencies that supports the delivery of appropriate, proportionate and timely help to all children and their families when they need it.



### Our Approaches:



We use an outcome focused approach where families are viewed as experts. Positive relationships are the basis of a collaboration between the family and worker. All staff are trained in this approach. The involvement of children, young people and their families is paramount in the assessments and planning to ensure all interventions are outcome focused.

We are committed to professional learning and more recently this has included Motivational Interviewing, Trauma informed practice, SMART Planning and the Safe and Together Model.

### Wellbeing Meetings

Early Intervention & Prevention Development Officers (EI&P DO) and partner agencies meet to attend wellbeing meetings to assist in the identification of supports for children and their families who are in need of further help.

The meetings provide a shared approach to the allocation, management and monitoring of targeted resources to meet need within local areas. These meetings are called Team around the child (TATC) for 0-12 year olds within Midlothian and Wellbeing meetings in the secondary schools.

Laura Hansen & Lorraine Chapman, EIPDO, September 2018

## Partnerships

The two EI&P Development Officers (0-12 & 12+) jointly work with frontline staff and partner agencies to identify local trends and gaps in service provision. This information is used to develop solutions in collaboration with our partnerships which enhance the range of services available to our children and families in Midlothian.

Key to the Development Officers role is offering advice, guidance and support to frontline staff and partners. This is in line with the Integrated Model of Support.

EI&P DO's also have a remit in the development and execution of strategic plans and managing service level agreements in Midlothian.

Some of these include

- Child Poverty – Strategy Group / ICSP
- GIRFEC Group – Named Person legislation & practice group.
- Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 implementation
- Mental Health – Young Peoples Strategy
- Youth Justice Development Group

## Evaluation of Impact

The EI&P team is committed to improving outcomes through the ongoing evaluation and development of our service. This includes the analysis of qualitative and quantitative performance data: stakeholder views; direct observations; supervision; audits, all of which are monitored and guided via our evaluation calendar and team plan (see attached documents).

Our self-evaluation will focus on our contribution to the wider aims outlined in the Single Midlothian Plan and the Integrated children's services plan, including:

1. Improving attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
2. Improving employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people
3. Improving children and young people's health and wellbeing
4. Increasing the numbers of care experienced young people accessing education, employment and training
5. Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children