



Single assessment for early help

A guide for parents and carers



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What is it?

The single assessment for early help is designed to support families and professionals to work together to achieve the best possible future for children and young people.

We recognise that every family can benefit from some extra support from time to time and that it is most successful when everyone works together.

The single assessment for early help encourages everyone involved to develop an understanding of a family's strengths and challenges. It considers the support needed in all areas that affect a child's development – from health, education and social development through to housing and family relationships.

How does it help?

A single assessment form guides professionals to ask the right questions to help them assess the needs of a child or young person.

The form provides a clear way of recording what is happening in a child or young person's life.

As part of the process, families are asked to agree to share their personal information with professionals, in order to discover what could change to meet the needs of their children.

What happens?

1. One of the professionals working with you and that you feel comfortable with, will take on the role of Lead Professional.
2. A 'Team around the Family' meeting may be suggested. This is considered a good way to:

- share ideas
 - solve problems
 - and plan solutions.
3. Together, you will look at:
 - what is important to the children and you as a family
 - what you all would like to see change
 - how the support that is agreed will be put in place and by whom.
 4. An action plan will be agreed where all parties will work together to support a change that will benefit your children and you, as a family.
 5. You will review the plan together on a regular basis to check that it is working and make changes where needed. This will mean looking at whether the plan:
 - has made any difference
 - has been helpful
 - and if anything else needs to change.
 6. Help from other services may be sought, if the team around the family, especially you, feel it is required.

Help and support

For advice, support and information, please contact First Point Tel: **01454 866000**
Email: **FirstPoint@southglos.gov.uk**

For advice, support and information for families with children and young people who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, please visit the Local Offer - **www.southglos.gov.uk/localoffer**