

# Academy of Social Work and Early Intervention

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Central  
Bedfordshire



University of  
Bedfordshire

## Early Help Standards

### Children and Families Workforce Early Help and Support Endorsed Pathway

#### Introduction

There have been many reviews that have championed approaches that provide early intervention/early help and the wide range of interventions used to tackle earliest signs of challenge. More and more services are providing preventative approaches and it is recognised that prevention can do more to reduce the need for reactive services that are often more costly and can be a greater challenge to families and young people.

The Early Help standards have been designed to develop the workforce which is often working in a way that supports the early needs and interventions of children, young people and families. Intervening early is less costly and often achieves better outcomes.

The standards are based upon the 10 essential standards for social workers and have been developed in support of workers from level 1 up to level 3. Whilst the standards support workers up to this level, it is recognised that most workers at level 3 will hold statutory responsibilities and very specialist skills, so this learning will just provide a starting point for professional development and could support initial induction.

The standards look at the common skills for working in early help/intervention but do not cover the very specialist elements of an individual role.

This endorsed pathway is a valuable contributor to children's workforce learning and is a platform on which to build more formal qualifications. It is a confirmation of the core competencies for the early help workforce and will be helpful in evidencing the skill set for a particular job role within early help and support. The learning provides the foundation for all child/family workers, early intervention workers, pastoral roles in schools such as learning mentor, access and inclusion workers and many others and delivers the basic knowledge requirements for the various roles. It is useful as an induction for new staff and/or to confirm the knowledge level of existing workers.

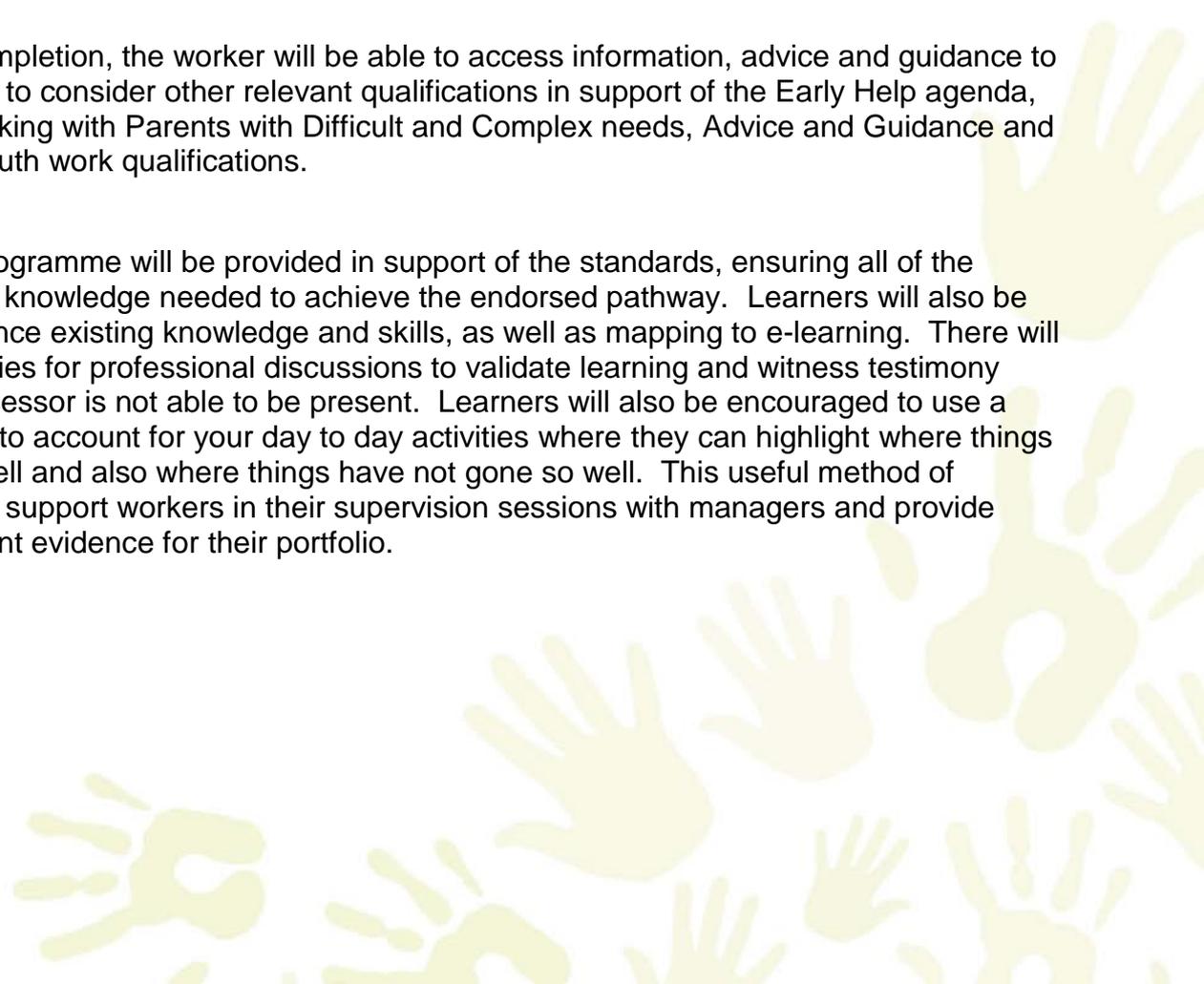
The Endorsed Learning Programme (ELP) is designed to give formal recognition to an organisation's bespoke courses that fall outside 'regulated provision', such as that on a national framework. The course has been accredited by CACHE who is recognised by the qualification regulators for England, Northern Ireland and Wales. CACHE's regulators are the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) in England and NI, and the Welsh Government in Wales. This course is not accredited by Ofqual but has been accredited by CACHE under the ELP.

Sign off of the standards will release a certificate confirming achievement and will be recognised as a demonstration of competence in the role as an Early Help Worker within the local authority where they are employed or volunteering.

CACHE certification: On completion of this course, learners will receive a certificate of achievement through ELP. This certificate of achievement must not be confused with nationally regulated qualifications.

Following completion, the worker will be able to access information, advice and guidance to support them to consider other relevant qualifications in support of the Early Help agenda, such as; Working with Parents with Difficult and Complex needs, Advice and Guidance and a range of youth work qualifications.

A learning programme will be provided in support of the standards, ensuring all of the underpinning knowledge needed to achieve the endorsed pathway. Learners will also be able to evidence existing knowledge and skills, as well as mapping to e-learning. There will be opportunities for professional discussions to validate learning and witness testimony where an assessor is not able to be present. Learners will also be encouraged to use a reflective log to account for your day to day activities where they can highlight where things have gone well and also where things have not gone so well. This useful method of recording will support workers in their supervision sessions with managers and provide some excellent evidence for their portfolio.



## Support

The Academy will undertake all of the support and assessment and will enable achievement of the standards through the mapping of activity and professional discussion. Learners will be able to work on their portfolio via an online portfolio, Learning Assistant. An assessor will be assigned to support all aspects of the work on Learning Assistant and give regular advice and feedback on achievement of the standards.

Line managers will provide important support to workers by allowing learners time to complete the activities required to achieve the standards, monitoring progress through line management and supervision and providing support as required. For example, this may be to give a witness testimony where required. Managers will also be able to help by engaging in finding solutions to any challenges that develop as an outcome of working through the standards.

## Workshop attendance

Workshops will be three hours in length and will take place at various times. There are eight workshops in total. Some workshops will be delivered over four whole days (2 workshops per day) others as eight sessions, either afternoon or evening.

At least 75% attendance at the planned workshops is a requirement for achievement of the standards. If unable to attend workshops (up to 25% of the learning time), learners will be supported to study independently to achieve the required knowledge through available e-Learning, research, through reading the handbooks and following any related online links.

## Cost

The Early Help Standards are currently available to the children's workforce across Central Bedfordshire free of charge. There is an expectation that staff will be supported and given the time required to attend workshops and complete the activities set to achieve sign off. We reserve the right to charge for non-completion, although exceptional circumstances will be taken into consideration. The full cost of this endorsed learning pathway is £650 for those applicants who are not working in Central Bedfordshire.

**For further information, please contact The Academy Team:**



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**[www.centralbedfordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk)**

*Offering careers information, advice and guidance daily, delivering quality qualifications, helping practitioners and children in Central Bedfordshire to achieve their full potential.*