**Early Help Funding**

**Early Help Funding** is a small resource of money available to support the Lead Professional in the community to be creative with the commissioning of services for children and young people in order to meet short term needs identified in an Early Help Assessment and Plan (EHAP).

It is expected that before submitting a request for funding, the Lead Professional will have explored universal services in their community as well as other funding streams, such as, pupil premium, charity funding, grants and parental contribution. The Lead Professional also needs to consider how the support will achieve the desired outcomes within the action plan. This is funded through the Families in Focus programme (Supporting Families) and the family need to meet the criteria in order to qualify.

 **When can the Lead Professional consider making a request for funding?**

The Lead Professional can consider making a request for Early Help funding when:

* The family are vulnerable in **three** of the headline outcomes for the Families in Focus (FIF/Supporting Families) programme – **see attachment below for FIF Outcomes Plan and reference numbers**.
* The child/young person has an up-to-date and holistic EHAP.
* Needs, actions and outcomes have been identified with the child/young person and their family and a service/item has been identified which is felt will meet a remaining need.
* A copy of the existing EHAP and subsequent EHAP reviews have been sent to Compass.
* Parents or carers are unable to fund part or all of the costs of the service/item.
* Charity funding has been sought and is unavailable.
* Other resourcing has been explored but is not possible to meet the costs e.g. Pupil Premium, grants etc.

**What does the Lead Professional also need to consider?**

When considering making a request for Early Help Funding the Lead Professional must also consider:

* Whether the service/item being commissioned will help achieve the identified outcomes and is the best and most suitable intervention for the child/young person/family.
* Building in an exit strategy to the commissioned support as the funding is limited.
* How the service will be reviewed to show what impact it has had for the child/young person/family. The Lead Professional will be asked to complete a feedback form after an intervention has been completed in order to evaluate the impact of the work.

**How can Early Help Funding be used?**

The expectation is that a funding request will specify how additional interventions will meet the identified family needs thus contributing to improved outcomes.  We ask that the Lead Professional also considers what the next steps will be for the child/young person(s) as this funding can only provide short-term support.  The funding that the Lead Professional can access allows for creative Early Help interventions that can be tailored to meet the needs of children and young people.

**When is Early Help Funding not appropriate?**

Early Help Funding is not appropriate:

* As a resource to meet educational needs (such as ICT equipment to access curriculum at home if a young person is unable to attend their educational setting; to pay for private tutoring; to cover the cost of damage to school property).
* As a resource to meet physical health needs (such as private physiotherapy); these can be met through health services.
* For long-term provision.  As there is very limited funding available, this resource is purposeful for a specific short-term intervention.
* For services or goods which are identified to meet a family’s needs such as white goods (washing machines, fridges etc.), carpets, adult education courses etc.

If a family you are working with meets the criteria and you would like to apply for funding, then please complete the ‘**EHAP Funding Request Form’** and send this to Compass – Compass@southglos.gov.uk

 