



Westmorland and Furness
Safeguarding Children
Partnership



Westmorland
& Furness
**Family
Help**

Together making a difference

The Practitioner's guide to Westmorland and Furness Family Help & Family Support Panels

If you would like more information about Family Help or Family Help and Family Support Panels, it can be found on the WFSCP Website:

wfscp.org.uk/welcome

wfscp.org.uk/resources-and-guidance/family-help-resources



Preparation for the Early Help & Family Support, (EHFS), Panel meeting:

In preparation for the meeting, you can speak to a Partnership Support who will talk you through the meeting format and what your role will be within the meeting. They can answer any questions you may have.

When you attend the meeting, the people that are present will introduce themselves and say which agency they represent. You will find a list of agencies who regularly attend across Westmorland and Furness on page 3.

You will have completed a Family Help and Family Support Panel referral form using the Signs of Wellbeing format and the members of the panel will have read this information before the meeting.

You will be asked to talk through the points below for about five minutes:

- What is working well?
- What you/the family are worried about?
- What needs to happen?

The members of the panel may ask you some questions to clarify their understanding of the family's circumstances and to help them offer you the best advice.

The members of the panel can make decisions on behalf of their agency in the meeting. They will bring with them any other information they have about the family that might help the conversation.

Outcomes from the discussion can include:

- Support guidance & information.
- Additional services to offer support.
- Change of coordinator to another agency.
- Change of coordinator to Targeted Family Help Team.



Making a referral to the Family Help and Family Support Panel:

Before the Family Help and Family Support Panel

Your Family Review (YFR) members, identify that progress is slow, has ceased, there are problems with identifying a Family Help Lead Co-ordinator or a contact made to the Multi-agency Children's Hub has an outcome recommending referral to Family Help and Family Support Panel.

The coordinator or Your Family Review (YFR) member completes the Family Help and Family Support meeting referral form, (including consent statement), with the family, adding as much information as possible. This should be submitted at least 5 working days before the Panel.

The Family Help Business Support Administrator, (Admin), receives the referral and allocates to a Partnership Support to check all information is complete.

Admin will email the TEAMS meeting invite and the time to attend the panel meeting to the referrer.

If further discussion is needed regarding the referral, a Partnership Support Officer will contact you to discuss any amendments needed to progress to panel.

5 working days before the panel date, the Admin will email out the agenda and referrals to the panel members.

After the Panel

Once the key points and agreed actions are checked and confirmed, panel Admin will send you notes from the meeting. They will also send you a feedback form to complete to note your experience of attending the panel.



Who attends?

Representatives from the following agencies attend the meetings, (some services are area specific)

Service	Area covered
Family Hubs	County wide service
16/17 Homeless Officer	County wide service
5 to 19 Public Health Nurse Practitioner	County wide service
Business Administrative Support	County wide service
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service, (CAMHS)/MYTime	County wide service
SEND	County wide service
Partnership Support Officer (PSO)	County wide service
Targeted Family Help	County wide service
Chair	Each area has its own chair a Family Help Team Manager
Cumbria Family Support	Eden
Eden Housing Association	Eden
Family Group Conferencing	County wide service
GP Safeguarding Lead	One
Police	County wide service
Carers	County wide service
Youth Justice Service (YJS)	County wide service

Other professionals may attend if required for specific family circumstances.

