



Why community-led preventive models of Early Family Help?

The **MacAlister Review** (2022), clearly outlined the need for Early Help reform, and a shift towards prevention-focussed support. The review found that families faced disjointed systems of support, with fragmented and inconsistent outcomes and raising demand on expensive social care intervention. New system transformation is needed to **prevent crisis through earlier intervention, provide better experiences and outcomes that help families thrive and reduce long-term reliance and demand for high-cost statutory services.**

During COVID-19 Early Family Help (EFH) teams in Greater Manchester recognised the brilliant innovation and capacity that existed in GM communities to deliver and offer help to families. This help was closer to families, delivered by trusted peers and professionals and creating responsive and holistic support. EFH leaders wanted to hold onto this brilliant work collaboratively to learn how to keep community-led EFH alive in their systems.

Solutions outlined in the MacAllister Review, which have been tested through the DfE Families First for Children pathfinder pilot work, identified the need for:

- Upfront investment in EFH
- Earlier intervention in a family's journey
- Clear, straightforward and connected pathways of support
- Better coordination across agencies that work holistically around families
- Creating community-based EFH and strengthening the role of communities and VCFSE as leaders

Greater Manchester recognised the benefit of investing in earliest prevention through community-led models and mobilised ahead of the reforms to shift their EFH systems to achieve better, more sustainable and less costly outcomes for families.



GM community-led prevention Early Family Help bright spots

From Nov '23 - March '25 four Authorities across GM have been working on behalf of the ten to answer the question,

'How can we create community-led preventative models of EFH in practice?'

Strong culture, practice and governance has been seeded within Children and Family work in GM.

This is ready to be embedded, scaled and adapted to all-age, whole family preventative working, required for regional and national prevention reform.

