

Introduction

Welcome to the *Jersey's Children First* guidance for everyone working with children in Jersey. Regardless of the role that you have in supporting children, this guidance will help to support your practice as you work to improve outcomes for children.

It is everyone's responsibility to notice when a child or young person is not okay and to do something about it.

Definitions

The following terms and meanings are used throughout this document:

agency	any agency, department, service, setting or organisation providing services to children
child	a child or young person
children	children or young people
practitioner	anyone working with children and their families

Introducing the Jersey's Children First Approach

This is a pre-birth to 25 approach with additional responsibilities for young people who have been in the care of the States of Jersey and young people in transition to adult services.

We are committed to improving the outcomes for all Jersey's children, in particular, those who are most vulnerable. Partners working across services for children have agreed that embedding a shared approach is critical to enabling us to achieve our vision for children and will be the model that all agencies and services will follow on the island.

At the heart of *Jersey's Children First* is a commitment to early intervention and prevention for children and for this to be co-ordinated around children and families when needed.

Children and families are entitled to help and support if and when they need it.

Early intervention is not just for very young children but at any time during childhood and adolescence as problems may emerge at any point.

Help may be provided through increased support in universal services or targeted services such as early intervention family support and the voluntary and community sector.

Where children's needs and circumstances may make them more vulnerable a co-ordinated multi-agency approach is usually best, based on a Child and Family Assessment (Early Help), with an identified Lead Worker, making sure children receive the help and support they need.

This means early intervention and prevention is part of our "day job".

Jersey's Children First has been agreed by the States Ministerial Group for Community and supports the outcomes of Jersey's Children's Plan.