

The key worker role and functions (Early Support)

Who:

- Chosen by families (ideally)
- Can also be the lead professional (important to consider if the child is a 'looked after child')
- Should be one of the practitioners who is in regular contact with child and family
- Is a member of the Team around the Child

Functions:

- Provide timely, accurate and appropriate information
- Identify and address the needs of whole family
- Provide emotional and practical support within a supportive, open relationship with proactive regular contact
- Work across agencies to assist families in their dealings with agencies (family file)
- Coordinate the support given by different agencies (Team around the Child and family service plan)
- Work with the families' strengths
- Act as an advocate or enable parents and children to access advocacy support as required
- Have the power to access resources and credibility with the agencies involved in provision for the family

(Based on Care Co-ordination Network UK key working standards)