

# Family Guide to Integration Consultation Panels

## What is an Integration Consultation Panel?

An Integration Consultation Panel is a friendly and collaborative meeting where professionals from various services, including early help, health, education, social care, and community services, come together. Their goal is to share their expertise and work together to offer the best support for families like yours. The panel aims to create a fully joined-up plan to address your family's unique needs and help improve your overall well-being.



## Why Would My Family Be Referred?

- Your family might be referred to an Integration Consultation Panel for several reasons, including:
- To find out the best early help services to support your family, to prevent any issues from getting worse.
- To support families to receive help at the right time.
- To make sure partners are working as team, when that is the best way to support your family.

## Who will be in attendance?

The panel includes representatives from various agencies such as:

- Shropshire Council Teams - Early Help, Public Health, Education including Early Years, Education Access Service, & Children's Social Care.
- Health Teams - School Nursing Service, Family Nurse Partnership, Health Visitors, Community Midwives, Midlands Partnership Foundation trust (MPFT), Social Prescribing and PCN's
- Other Partner Organisations - West Mercia Police, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service



## What Happens at a Panel?

At an Integration Consultation Panel, professionals will:

- Find out your family's needs based on information partners already have, plus any new information from you.
- Share their knowledge and expertise to identify the best support options tailored to your family's circumstances.
- Develop an action plan to provide the right help at the right time
- Ensure all discussions are confidential and respectful, maintaining your family's privacy and dignity throughout the process.



## What Happens After a Consultation Panel?

After the panel meeting:

- You'll be informed about the discussions and the support recommended for your family, ensuring you are fully aware and in agreement with the next steps.
- The referrer / lead professional will coordinate the support and will be the main person you are in contact with, keeping you and the team around you up to date.
- An action plan will be developed, monitored and reviewed regularly to ensure its helping to better support your family.
- You'll be encouraged to give feedback and be involved all the way through, your voice is important.



## Confidentiality and storing of information

All discussions and information shared during the panel meetings are treated with the utmost confidentiality. The notes from the panel meetings are recorded and stored securely within the Shropshire Council's EHM Case Management System.



**Scan the QR code to read more on the Privacy Notice.**

## What happens if I do not consent to the discussion?

If you do not consent to the discussion of your family's case at the panel, the referral will not proceed. It is important to communicate your decision clearly to the professional who is wanting to make the referral. They may discuss other ways to support your family outside of the panel process.

However, there are certain circumstances where a professional does not require your consent to discuss your family at the panel. These include situations where there are concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, and sharing information is necessary to protect them. In such cases, the reasons for sharing information must be clearly communicated to you, and the legal basis in which this is being shared without consent must be clearly documented by the referring professional. The professional will still inform you of the panel discussion and any outcomes.

**We hope this leaflet helps you understand the Integration Consultation Panels and how the panels aim to support families in Shropshire.**

