

# **Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Appendix One Glossary**



**Walsall Council**

**PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE**

# Children's Services Overview

## **MASH; Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub**

- A multi-agency team that agrees responses to contacts made into the “front door” in respect of vulnerable children and their families
- Decisions are informed by Right Help Right Time guidance (RHRT)

## **Exploitation Team; team working with primarily older children who go missing and may be at risk of being criminally exploited (e.g. county lines/gangs) or sexually exploited.**

- Provide support to Children's Services Practitioners in their responses to missing and exploitation
- Developing effective partnership responses, especially with police
- Daily Exploitation Triage
- Looking at better ways of supporting vulnerable young people when they move into adulthood “transitions”

# Service overview

## **Turning Point; a team working with adolescents**

- Supporting with a range of issues, such as breakdown of relationship with parents and other vulnerabilities for example trauma/mental health
- Primary aim is to prevent relationship breakdown and C&YP coming into the care of the Local Authority

## **Children with disabilities; a team who support families where a child has a disability which requires support mental and /or behavioural and physical e.g. respite and specialist placements**

- Specialist support to children and young people and their families with a disability or complex health need
- Work across a spectrum of services to ensure that children and families access the Right Help at the Right Time
- Working closely with adult social care colleagues and other to produce an all age disability pathway

# Service overview

**Locality Family Safeguarding Service;** supporting those families where a concern has been raised, assessing, signposting or developing and implementing a detailed plan (Child in need or child protection)

- **Locality working-** colocation and embedding practice rooted in an local community resources, driving integration with other services and supporting threshold application .
- **Family Safeguarding Model:** Work alongside Adult practitioners with parents who have needs around mental health, substance abuse and domestic abuse
- **Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC);** Family Drug and Alcohol Courts offer an alternative approach to ordinary care proceedings using multi disciplinary teams where parents misuse substances and alcohol

# Service overview

- **Pre Proceedings and Court Proceedings**
- Intensive work with families pre court proceedings to give family access to legal advice and support as a last chance before court proceedings are instigated.
- Strengthen use of PLO and Permanence Trackers to drive planning for children Implement FDAC / interface with FS model, to prevent delay.
- **Multi-Agency Working;** Build and develop influential and respectful partnerships between practitioners and partner agencies to promote best outcomes for children and their families.
- **Promote Cultural Change;** Through implementation of Restorative Practice and Motivational Interviewing, promoting culture of working 'with' families to support change and to keep children and families together where it is safe to do so.

# Service overview

## Safeguarding and Review Service:

### **Child Protection Chairs and Independent Reviewing Officers ;**

- To chair Child Protection Conferences and Statutory Reviews
- Offer independent scrutiny and quality assurance , challenge and support to ensure the progression of Child Protection Plans and Care Plans
- Ensure the child and parental views are heard in formal processes
- Audit and understand practice, by providing insights into trends and patterns with the families they are coming into contact with.
- If professionals around a family have significantly differing perspectives, mediating to develop consensus and escalating if this is not possible
- Especially focussed at the moment on embedding a restorative, relational culture across partnerships

# Service Overview

**Corporate Parenting Teams: providing services for children in care up to the age of 18 including unaccompanied asylum seeking children.**

- Developing relationships with the children in care, their carers and families as well as partners to secure permanence and placement stability.
- Ensuring children in care receive the support and services they need so they grow up in stable, warm, healthy environments so they reach their potential.

**Transition and Leaving Care Team: providing services to care leavers 18 to 25**

- Developing relationships with housing, employment, education and training and partners in adult services to maximise support for young adults.
- Developed targeted bespoke offer for young people at risk of homelessness and housing support to support transition to living independently

**Therapeutic Family Time Service: supervised family time for children in care.**

- Ensuring a flexible and safe approach especially as we emerge from COVID

**Daisy Team: Therapeutic intervention team working with parents.**

- Working intensively with expectant parents where there has been a child removed previously, supporting with issues of domestic abuse, substance abuse and mental health

# Service overview

## **Placement Team: responsible for home finding for children in care**

- Really complex task as low levels of availability and some quite specialist needs.

## **Fostering Service; recruitment of mainstream foster carers,**

- Assessing connected carers,(typically family members)
- Training, development and supervision of all foster carers,
- We have 3 Mockingbird Hubs and are on track to increase to 5
- Established Support and Stability Team to offer therapeutic and practical support to children and foster carer to prevent children moving homes.

## **Children's Home: 3 Children's Homes rated Good by Ofsted**

- 7 children placed at Redruth and Hilton Rd
- Bluebell's short breaks Home is fully operational with Covid safe measures in place
- Plans agreed to increase provision by 2 new homes given difficulties with placements nationally



# Service overview

**Early Help:** work with partners to support children and young people aged 0-19 and their families as problems emerge, preventing the need for statutory or specialist service intervention

- Locality Working: whole family support for a range of needs, including domestic abuse, behavioural concerns, emotional wellbeing, substance misuse, parental conflict.
- Delivers training and awareness to parents and carers
- Responsible for supporting young carers and reducing the need for their caring responsibility, where possible
- Provides targeted youth work to children and young people at risk of school exclusion or vulnerable to exploitation

# Service overview

**Youth Justice**; a multi agency team responsible for supervising young people aged 10-17 involved in offending and harmful behaviour.

- Monitors and oversees court orders and provides services for young people subject to police disposals.
- Provides services for the Youth and Crown Court, at the Police custody blocks and within the wider secure estate.
- Ensures victims have appropriate services offered to them
- Funded by the LA, Youth Justice Board, West Midlands Police, including the PCC, and Probation .

# Service overview

**Children's Commissioning Service:** responsible for understanding the needs of children, young people and families and planning, commissioning and reviewing services to meet identified need

- Engages with local and regional markets to procure Early Help, Social Care and SEN Education services
- Monitors and oversees contracts to ensure compliance and outcome delivery
- Maintains a joint commissioning relationship with health for complex and disabled children requiring a range of community-based support
- Supports the planning and development of future provision

# Performance, Improvement & Quality

- **Ensuring that systems are fit for purpose**, support practice and capture the information needed to manage performance and understand need, developing systems and supporting users.
- **Analysing data from systems to monitor performance**, developing Power BI dashboards so that managers have access to the information needed 'at the touch of a button'.
- **Analysing data to understand need**, undertaking 'deep dives' where required and supporting senior managers to make strategic decisions.
- **Submitting statutory returns** to central government and undertaking benchmarking analysis against statistical, regional and national comparators when data is published.
- **Developing and managing quality assurance processes**, supporting managers to link qualitative and quantitative data to ensure that both performance and quality of practice meet required standards.

# Practice Development

## Professional leadership:

- Focussing on five practice priorities and key development areas
- Creating a settled, permanent workforce , including recruitment and retention, staff wellbeing.
- Developing a career progression pathway, and learning and professional development opportunities for all staff
- Implementing clear, consistent practice frameworks, tools and resources, and policies and procedures
- Reinforcing a learning culture with robust, effective systems for understanding the quality of practice, and to reflect and learn around areas for improvement and good practice

# Practice Development

**Practice Development Hub; a team of staff with implementation of Practice Development Priorities (as set out in previous slide)**

- Experienced practitioners offering bespoke support for staff and partners
- Development and implementation of research, resources and tools across pathway and system
- Designing and delivering training and workshops
- Hosting career pathway programmes:
  - Newly qualified programme (ASYE)
  - Practice Supervisor programme
  - Team Manager programme
- Workforce support and intelligence

# Children's Social Care Priorities

- 1.Workforce**; we want a stable, motivated and skilled workforce with clear development opportunities, where staff feel valued and listened to ensuring children and families, feel respected , stay together and have fulfilling lives
- 2.Tools**; We ensure our staff have the tools and resources to work effectively and restoratively in order to support effective / timely decision making; working creatively with children and families to facilitate sustainable approaches to parenting
- 3.Practice**; We adopt best practice the makes a measurable and genuine difference to children and families. This means doing the basics consistently well and innovating in areas of need
- 4.Partnerships**; will be characterised by effective multi-agency working, collaboration and relationships to ensure that we agree joint priorities and processes to best meet the needs of children and families.