

Keeping families together

Edge of care services



We believe in keeping families together where possible and make every effort to do so by putting children and families at the heart of all we do.

We know that families sometimes experience difficulties and need extra help to stay together. To meet a variety of needs in flexible ways, our services have been improved so we can offer direct support to children and young people living with one or both parents, or with a connected person.

The Children and Families Service teams working to keep families together are:

Prevention and intervention

This team helps families where a child or young person may be at risk of becoming looked after or where a rehabilitation plan has been agreed. Our well trained staff use techniques such as, Triple P, NVR, PACE, solution focused work and family group conferencing to do this. They offer intensive packages of support and keep in contact with families at intervals after involvement has ended in case further help is required.

Parenting Practitioner

This team offers parenting support such as NVR, PACE and Triple P, to families where a child is on the edge of care, is subject to a child protection plan or is in pre-court proceedings. The team's work contributes to the enhanced single assessments carried out by senior social workers and to parenting and PAMS assessments.

Systemic Practice Team

This team works with families to help them repair and develop relationships so that children can either remain with their families or return safely to them. Workers will also support other areas of the Children and Families Service by identifying ways to improve relationships through consultation, staff development, organisational feedback, stakeholders understanding and direct systemic input.

Children in Care Support

This team provides supervised family time primarily for children looked after but also those subject to a child protection plan. This group of staff develop strong relationships so they will also complete life story work and direct work with the aim to enhance self-esteem, confidence and links to the community.

How to access support

To find out more parents and carers can talk to their contact person. Referrers can speak to their Early Help Officer and council practitioners can contact the relevant team manager. Referrals to all teams are via an allocated social worker using a single referral form.



Other specialist support

Family Group Conferencing

This is a process which enables families, through supported discussion, to find ways to solve their problems - together. Where there are concerns about a vulnerable child's safety or wellbeing, a FGC can be used to encourage the family to talk to each other about any issues and build on their strengths and resources to find lasting solutions.

The service is accessed by referral from social care practitioners or through the common assessment framework process.

Domestic Abuse Support

Social workers and family support workers will work with parents in abusive relationships, whether they are a perpetrator or victim. Support includes relationship work, individual work with victims to understand cycles of abuse, individual work with perpetrators to enable them to take responsibility for their behaviour, and direct work with children, or with young people under 18 in domestically abusive relationships.

The support is for any child and their family who have experienced significant domestic abuse and meet the threshold for an intervention by Children and Families or for young people under 18 who are open to the service and in a domestically abusive relationship.

There is a Feeling Safe Group for children and the non-abusing carer to explore their own experiences of domestic violence and abuse and to find positive ways to deal with their feelings. This service is open to any agency across the county to refer to.