



Community Operating Group (COG) Teams





Sandwell locality COG Teams.

With effect from Monday 30 June 2014, Targeted Youth Support and Early Help Services joined together to become the Integrated Service for Families and Young People (ISFYP). The Integrated Service is largely based within COG (Community Operating Group) Teams based in six locality offices.

Each COG Team is managed by a COG Manager and is staffed by a combination of Senior Targeted Family Support Worker's, Targeted Family Support Worker's and an Early Help Social Worker who between them will offer support to families and young people.

The service provides more specialist support across Sandwell, including the Family Solutions Team who will focus upon preventing family breakdown, the Young Parent's Centre, Youth Offending Service and focused support around drugs and crime prevention.

Regular multi-agency COG Meetings continue as the backbone of the service, bringing together professionals who work in the local community to share resources and make sure that support is well targeted.

Our shared ethos is about placing the needs of children at the centre, taking a solution focused approach to motivate and enable families to make lasting changes that enable children to thrive and succeed. All workers will use the EHM system and share the same core skills, using outcome focused plans and the 'outcome star' model to chart and evidence the progress made by families towards goals that they have agreed with the worker.

Early Help Social Workers, based in the six localities, are available to offer professionals (schools, health, voluntary sector, etc) access to 'early social work advice' thus helping to reduce unnecessary referrals to children's social care. COG Teams can be contacted during normal office hours. Requests for early help support should normally be submitted on an Early Help Assessment.



Interim Operations Manager for Targeted Services

Email: Kate_griffiths@sandwellchildrenstrust.org

Tel: 0121 569 5779

COG Manager – Kate Griffiths



Kate has a degree in Youth and Community Work. She has worked within the authority for 17 years in various roles within the Youth Service, Connexions, YOS, TYS and Targeted Services. Kate was the Tipton COG Manager for 4.5. years and felt locality working was the key to success within Early Help. been the COG Manager in Tipton. In July 2018, Kate secured an interim position as the Operations Manager for Targeted Services and is passionate to embed Targeted Service alongside colleagues within the Trust and ensure there is a strong and vibrant Early Help Service in Sandwell.

The 10 years prior to joining the COG, Kate had been working within the criminal justice system setting up and leading services in resettlement of young people being released from the secure estate, restorative justice, reparation and setting up the new Out of Court Disposal in partnership with the Sandwell LPU. She has extensive experience of partnership and family working to divert young people away from crime.



Wednesbury COG

Sandwell Local, (Wednesbury)

Wednesbury Town Hall,

Holyhead Road, Wednesbury

WS10 7DF

Tel: 0121 569 7294

COG Manager – Suki Sian



Suki has worked in Sandwell for the last 12 years. For the last 4 years Suki has been the Wednesbury COG Manager and for 8 years before this Suki worked in the Preventative arena of Youth Offending Service and Targeted Youth Support, for the first year as a Frontline worker and then as the Prevention Manager.

Previous to this she has 10 years' experience in Early Years and 4 years in Domestic Violence and Refuge work. Throughout her working career Suki has always worked in a multi-disciplinary team and have over 20 years' experience of working with Young people and their families.



West Bromwich COG

Sandwell Local (West Bromwich)

The Court House, High Street,

West Bromwich,

B708LU

Email:

westbrom_cog@sandwell.gov.uk

Tel: 0121 569 7293

COG Manager – Claire Martin



Claire is a qualified Probation Officer with 11 years experience in the criminal justice system.

She has lead on Integrated Offender Management for Youths in Sandwell, working closely with partnership agencies, including Probation and the Police. Her main area of supervision is the high risk and prolific young offender cohorts within Sandwell area.

Claire has been the COG Manager in West Bromwich for the last 4 years.



Oldbury COG

Sandwell Council House,
Oldbury,
West Midlands,
B693DE.

Email: oldbury_cog@sandwell.gov.uk

Tel: 0121 569 7295

COG Manager – Naomi Clarke-Huggan



Naomi has worked for Sandwell for nearly 14 years following extensive study in Psychology, Sociology and Counselling. She has spent her time working with Vulnerable Children and Young People in many occupations ranging from DECCA, Specialist Team Manager within Targeted Youth Support and COGs. This experience has provided Naomi with in-depth knowledge, skills and experience to provide support, advice and information to children, young people and families as well supporting staff to contribute towards the Early Help Strategy. Naomi's passion for working with families is to achieve better outcomes for their lives by building resilience and independence for long term sustainability

Naomi has been the COG Manager for Oldbury for the last 4 years.



Rowley COG

Sandwell Local (Rowley Regis)

Payne Street,

Blackheath,

B65 0DH

Email: rowley_cog@sandwell.gov.uk

Tel: 0121 569 7296

COG Manager – Rofia Noreen



Rofia has extensive experience spanning 17 years working directly with families and children, managing people in a variety of family support roles and working in partnership with other agencies to ensure a holistic support for families. She has frontline experience of working with families allowing her to see the positive impact that intervention has in the lives of families. She enjoys her work and has learnt that safeguarding children is best achieved by taking the child's entire environment into consideration. She worked with families intensively to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime using a whole family approach. Working with families entrenched in ASB and crime requires patience, resilience and building trust. She could not have made progress without the support of colleagues. Team working is the key to successful work with families and she is looking forward to working within a wider team to continue to make a difference to families.

Rofia has been the COG Manager in Rowley for the past 4 years.



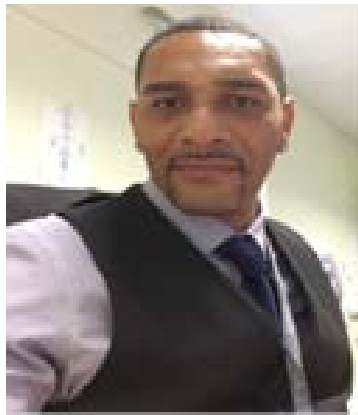
Smethwick COG

Smethwick Council House,
High Street,
Smethwick,
B66 3NT

Email: smethwick_cog@sandwell.gov.uk

Tel: 0121 569 7297

COG Manager – Barry Cole



Barry has been the COG Manager in Smethwick for the last 3.5 years. Barry is experienced in working with Children and families and is passionate about improving outcomes for the families of Smethwick and across Sandwell.



Tipton COG

Sandwell Local (Tipton)

High Street,

Tipton,

DY4 9JB

Email: tipton_cog@sandwell.gov.uk

Tel: 0121 569 7291

COG Manager – Eboney Haughton



Eboney has a degree in Criminal Justice and has worked for Sandwell since 2013, she has worked in various roles since being in Sandwell all around family support; Eboney roles include frontline family support , Senior Targeted Family Support Worker and more recently in October 2018 becoming the COG manager in Tipton.

Eboney has a vast amount of experience with young people and their families for the last 20 years and is very passionate about Tipton as she has been working in Tipton since the foundation of the COG's in 2014.

Eboney believes that good partnerships in Tipton is key to ensuring that the families have the best service and best achievable outcomes, preventing the families being referred back into services after successful closures.