



# Introduction to Family Safeguarding in Wandsworth



## 1. Introduction

Family Safeguarding is a strengths-based approach that was developed in Hertfordshire in 2015. This is a new way of working that focuses on supporting parents and carers with the aim of keeping children safely within their families.

This is achieved through a more collaborative way of working that encourages parents and carers to identify the changes needed within their own families. This approach will help us achieve better outcomes for children in Wandsworth by reducing the need for children to come into care.

Family Safeguarding provides a whole family approach to child protection. Adult specialist practitioners are co-located into social work teams, making it easy to access the right help and support for adults and children. Combining the knowledge and expertise of all these specialist workers to assess and address the needs of the whole family enables more children to remain safely together with their families, reducing the need for children to come into care.

## 2. Key components of Family safeguarding

### Multi-Disciplinary Teams

Specialist workers for substance and alcohol misuse, parental mental health and domestic abuse are co-located with social workers, working together as one team

### Motivational interviewing

MI provides a unifying method of practice and is integral to working with families and professionals. It is a technique which supports ownership, accountability and commitment to change through a collaborative conversation style that creates confidence in parents to enhance readiness for change.

### Family Safeguarding Case Supervision

All of the practitioners working with the child(ren) and family come together to discuss the progress of work with the family and share decision making.

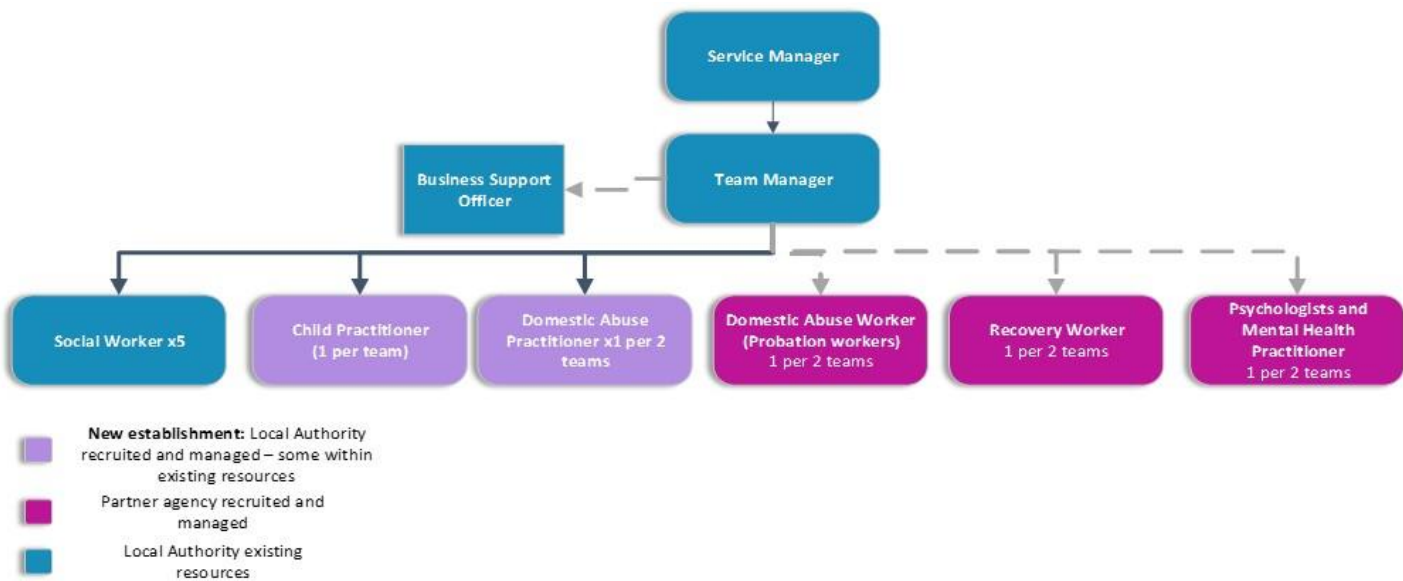
Family Safeguarding Electronic Workbook

This is a new multi-agency recording system that improves information sharing and reduces bureaucracy. All practitioners from Family Safeguarding working with the family will record on the electronic workbook.

Family Programme

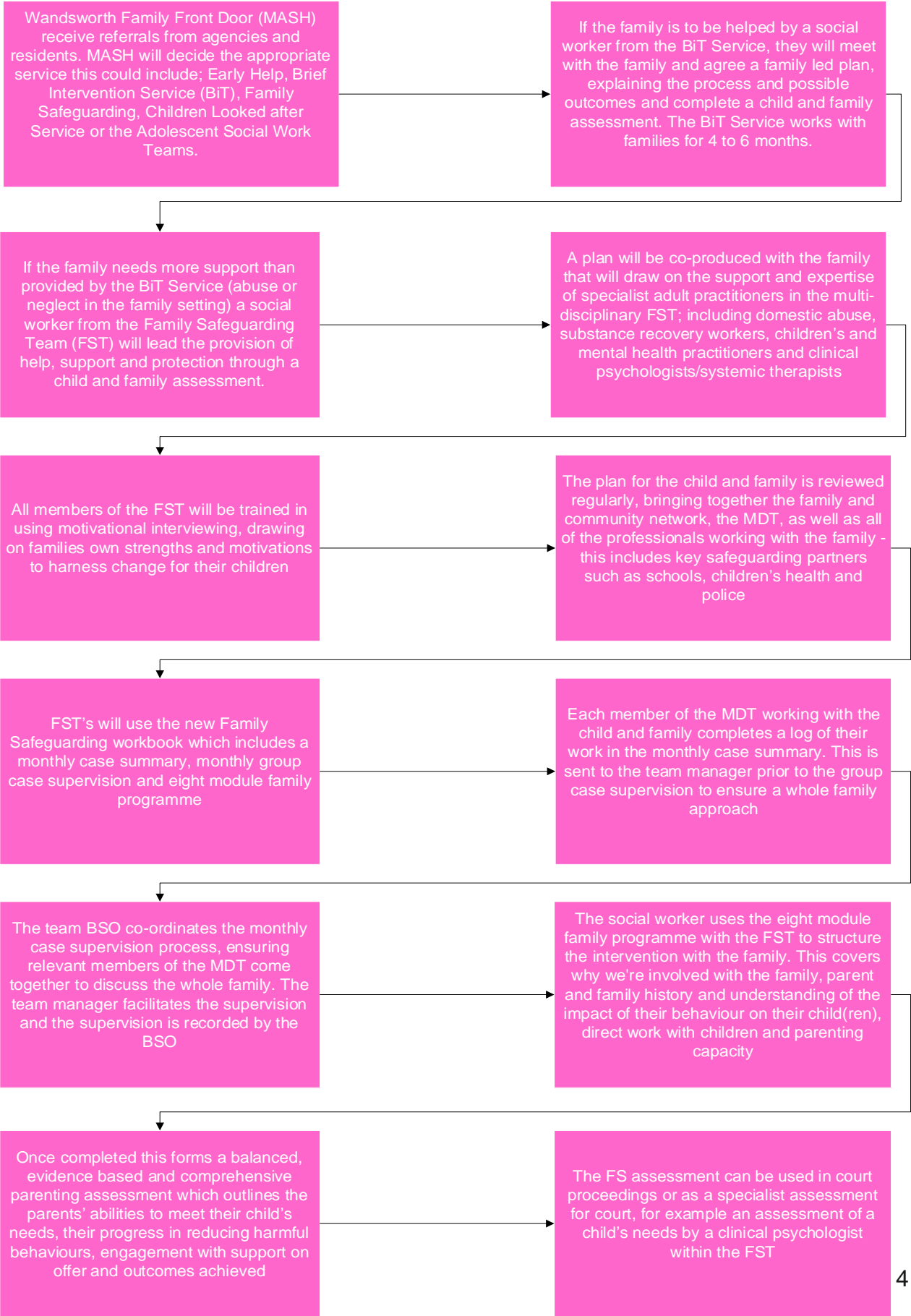
This forms the framework for direct work with children and families. This comprises 8 modules that guide direct work with the family, co-ordinated by the social worker, with the direct work undertaken by all the practitioners working with the family including adult specialist workers.

3. Team Structure



4. Practice - How it works

**Glossary**  
BiT (Brief Intervention Service)  
FST (Family Safeguarding Team)  
FS (Family Safeguarding)  
MDT (Multi-disciplinary Team)  
BSO (Business Support Officer)



## 5. The Family Safeguarding Multi-Disciplinary Team

The advantages of having co-located multi-disciplinary teams working together in Family Safeguarding include;

- Access to specialist advice and knowledge
- Opportunity for joint visits and shared learning
- Reducing the waiting times for a family to receive a service from specialists
- Shared knowledge across professions
- The Social Work Team Manager holds responsibility for decision making in relation to the child and coordinates the team around the child and family.

### Team Manager

Responsible for line management of social care staff (social workers, domestic abuse practitioners and children's practitioners), personal supervision, Family Safeguarding case supervision, allocating work to adult workers and decision making regarding the child.

### Social Worker

Key worker responsibilities and co-ordinating the progression of the child's multidisciplinary plan, co-ordinate Family Programme to identify and meet the family's needs that will impact on the child, motivating families to choose change, finalising assessments of parenting.

### Children's Practitioner

Direct work with families using Motivational Interviewing and undertaking delegated parenting modules, mentoring and supporting improvement of parenting skills.

### Domestic Abuse Practitioner

Direct work with victims/survivors of domestic abuse, deliver group work programmes, providing help with reflection on healthy relationships, understanding of the impact upon a child, boosting self-esteem, realistic safety plans via individual casework and group work.

### Domestic Abuse Worker (Probation workers)

Undertake specialist assessments, including analysis of risk. Deliver group programmes for men and women convicted of or alleged to be perpetrators of domestic abuse, focusing

on identification of abusive behaviours, impact of domestic abuse on children and partners, strategies to cope with feelings of anger, mindfulness and where group work is not appropriate, provide one to one sessions to support change.

### **Psychologists and Mental Health Practitioners**

Assessments of parental mental health support needs and delivery of individual and group interventions including Cognitive and Dialectical Behavioural Therapies, and Mindfulness Programmes. Assessments of cognitive functioning, advice on working with parents with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities. Referrals to CMHTs and Psychiatry. Consultations for adults and children's mental health support needs.

### **Recovery Worker**

Undertake consultation, assessment and alcohol/drug testing as appropriate. Use Motivational Interviewing to motivate parents to commit to change their use of drugs/alcohol. Deliver parents recovery group programme, provide one to one support.

### **Business Support Officer**

Coordinates team diaries, organises Family Safeguarding case and individual supervisions, minutes Family Safeguarding group case supervisions and inputs to case recording system, circulates meeting notes, various other administrative duties.