

# 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.

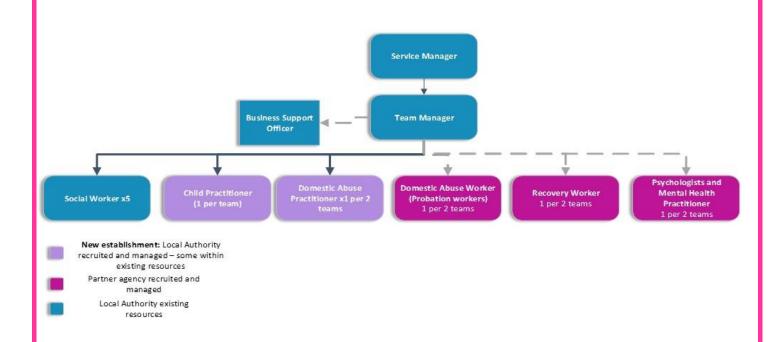
# **Family Safeguarding Electronic Workbook**

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)

Wandsworth Family Front Door (MASH) receive referrals from agencies and residents. MASH will decide the appropriate service this could include; Early Help, Brief Intervention Service (BiT), Family Safeguarding, Children Looked after Service or the Adolescent Social Work Teams.

If the family is to be helped by a social worker from the BiT Service, they will meet with the family and agree a family led plan, explaining the process and possible outcomes and complete a child and family assessment. The BiT Service works with families for 4 to 6 months.

If the family needs more support than provided by the BiT Service (abuse or neglect in the family setting) a social worker from the Family Safeguarding Team (FST) will lead the provision of help, support and protection through a child and family assessment.

A plan will be co-produced with the family that will draw on the support and expertise of specialist adult practitioners in the multi-disciplinary FST; including domestic abuse, substance recovery workers, children's and mental health practitioners and clinical psychologists/systemic therapists

All members of the FST will be trained in using motivational interviewing, drawing on families own strengths and motivations to harness change for their children

The plan for the child and family is reviewed regularly, bringing together the family and community network, the MDT, as well as all of the professionals working with the family this includes key safeguarding partners such as schools, children's health and police

FST's will use the new Family Safeguarding workbook which includes a monthly case summary, monthly group case supervision and eight module family programme Each member of the MDT working with the child and family completes a log of their work in the monthly case summary. This is sent to the team manager prior to the group case supervision to ensure a whole family approach

The team BSO co-ordinates the monthly case supervision process, ensuring relevant members of the MDT come together to discuss the whole family. The team manager facilitates the supervision and the supervision is recorded by the BSO

The social worker uses the eight module family programme with the FST to structure the intervention with the family. This covers why we're involved with the family, parent and family history and understanding of the impact of their behaviour on their child(ren), direct work with children and parenting capacity

Once completed this forms a balanced, evidence based and comprehensive parenting assessment which outlines the parents' abilities to meet their child's needs, their progress in reducing harmful behaviours, engagement with support on offer and outcomes achieved

The FS assessment can be used in court proceedings or as a specialist assessment for court, for example an assessment of a child's needs by a clinical psychologist within the FST

# 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.