
Newcastle Children's Social Care Working Principles ~ Putting our Principles into Practice





A Focus on our Working Principles



In collaboration with children and young people and practitioners from across our service, we have created a set of six working principles. These working principles are designed to support and inform our decision making and practice with children, young people and their families. These principles help us in making sure we keep all children and young people at the heart of our decision making and have a shared set of guiding principles to complete our work.

Child Centred - We are all about supporting children and young people. They are our priority.

Children are at the centre of all we do this means we;

- encourage and support them to participate in meetings and conferences
 - use language that they understand
- take the time to get to know them and understand their lived experience
- keep accurate records with genograms and clear chronologies that will support them to clearly understand why decisions were made about their care during their childhood.

Working Together – We work with children, young people and their families to achieve positive change.

When we work with and alongside people, there is strong evidence to say that outcomes for children and their families are improved.

We will;

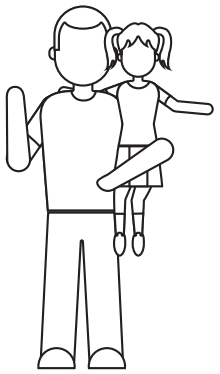
- work to build trusting relationships with children, young people and their families and to understand the unique relationships within their family
 - listen to and equally value everyone's views in meetings and conferences
 - respond promptly to emails and messages from children, young people and their families
 - visit and call when we say we will
- encourage children, young people and families to give us feedback on their experience of working with us and use it to improve our service

Family Solutions - We value a family's ability to solve their own problems. We help families to do this and only intervene when needed.

An important part of doing this is ensuring that when families are experiencing difficulties and a child within the family is vulnerable, the support that is put in place works with the family to find sustainable solutions and empowers that family to find the strength to change.

We will do this by;

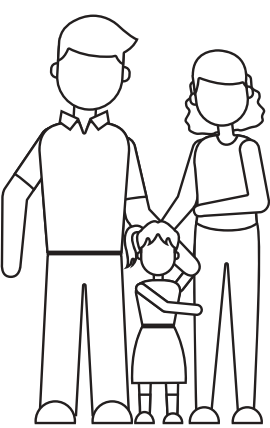
- working with families to recognise their strengths and to build on them
 - supporting families to understand the impact of their behaviours
- working with families to agree what needs to change, when it needs to happen and the support they need to help them make the change
- sharing our knowledge and tools to support families to find achievable sustainable solutions



Safely at Home - Our aim is to keep children safely at home. Where this is not possible, we will find somewhere safe for them to live for as long is needed.

This means we will;

- explore alternative ways to support families to stay together, including through our edge of care services
- consider how the wider family and friend network can support children and young people to stay safely with their family
- find the best place for children and young people to live to maintain their network of support and friends



Balanced Response - We manage risk by working together. We are evidence based and balanced.

We will;

- respond to requests for service and advice promptly and let professionals know why we are not progressing referrals
- work with partners to consider all relevant information and histories in assessments to ensure we only get involved with families when evidence shows that we need to
- draft clear plans with achievable actions that address the real risks and are understood by families and professionals

Challenge and Support - We challenge ourselves and support each other. We welcome challenge and support from others.

We recognise that creating change sometimes requires challenge as well as support. We will;

- support families to change
- respectfully challenge families and ourselves when change is not happening
- work with children, young people and their families rather than do to them or for them to ensure change is sustainable and that they are not reliant on our support for longer than is necessary

