



Families Together Plus (FT+) Service

Introduction

The Families Together Plus (FT+) Service was launched in November 2020. It replaced the Edge of Care Service. It provides intensive support to children from the age of 12 to 18 years who are at risk of coming into care. They also support rehabilitation plans for children returning to their families.

The FT+ Service works closely with ASTI, Safeguarding and CIC Teams across the Trust. The support they provide to children and their families lasts from 4 to 12 weeks, although this can be extended to 16 weeks where required.

The team focuses on a variety of complex issues ranging from family conflict, missing from home, child on parent violence, Contextual Safeguarding and substance misuse. Their work includes the involvement of friends, neighbours and other significant adults in the family's support network.

They aim to build on each family's strengths to develop their coping strategies, working openly with families to assess problems, develop measurable goals and help the whole family to acquire the skills necessary to achieve their objectives.

Their intervention is delivered through up to 3 sessions a week using various methods. This includes face to face visits, telephone contact or using digital platforms such as WhatsApp or Microsoft Teams.

Reuniting Families Offer

The team also offers a 'Reuniting Families' Service to provide support around placements, particularly where they have been aggravated due to COVID-19. The areas of support include the reunification of young people in short term foster placements and more urgently those young people who will be admitted to residential settings on a very short-term basis. In these circumstances they will work with the allocated Social Worker, the young person and their parents to broker a plan for reunification, for a period of 4 - 6 weeks.

In addition, they will help to keep children and young people settled in foster placements who have moved from a residential setting.

Making a Referral

All cases referred to the FT+ Service must have an allocated Social Worker who is responsible for managing and coordinating the plan for the child/young person.

Access to the service is via a referral process. To make a referral to the team, the Social Worker should initially have a discussion with the FT+ Service duty worker via telephone, email or face to face.

All referrals should be sent directly to the FT+ Service inbox at:

FamiliesTogetherPlus@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

Once agreed, a FT+ Service Referral Form needs to be completed. You can download a copy of the referral form [here](#).

The referring Social Worker must have obtained consent from the parent or main carer(s) prior to the referral being submitted.

The Social Worker will then be required to arrange a joint visit with the FT+ Service worker so they can be introduced to the family. The Social Worker should also ensure that the FT+ Service worker is invited to all upcoming meetings in relation to the family.

During their involvement, the Social Worker and FT+ Service will share information as and when required about the child/family.

After six weeks, a case review meeting will be held with the Allocated Social Worker, FT+ Service worker and the family to monitor progress.