

Family Safeguarding is based on the principle of Safeguarding being a shared and equal responsibility between adults and children's services.

This is a whole family approach focusing on improving outcomes and reducing harm to children, by working with the adults in the family. Specialist adult workers are co-located within children's social care teams, bringing expertise on adult issues, such as substance misuse, domestic abuse, mental health needs and social isolation. Motivational Interviewing is the unifying practice model. This focuses on strengths based approach, building relationships and working with resistance & behaviour change.

Why is it important?

This way of working supports the adults to address their difficulties and will support children to live safely at home with their families. It will prevent more children and young people coming into local authority care. By addressing the difficulties that adults can experience, it will enable them to develop a better understanding of their children's needs and to focus on developing their skills as a parent.

Focused assessments and targeted support for parents & carers, alongside SMART planning and decision making, has been shown to reduce the number of children who need local authority care, as well as improving reunification. Building better relationships with parents & carers is more likely to result in sustained change for all family members. Research has shown this approach to safeguarding brings improvements across whole systems; within the wider community, for partner agencies, as well as for families.

How do we do it?

The Family Safeguarding Service consists of specialist adult workers who are co-located within the Children's Locality & Building your Future Social Work Teams. These practitioners work in partnership with parents, carers and children's social workers, contributing to existing CIN and CP processes.

The Family Safeguarding Service provides:

- Specialist advice, including Team around the Worker guidance
- Specialist assessments and planning with families
- Direct work on a 1:1 basis with adults who care for children
- Up2U: Family Practice
- Access to specialist adult referral pathways when required

Domestic abuse workers can offer risk assessments, safety planning, support to access legal remedies & refuge, as well as advocacy. Support can be offered to both parties to recognise and address unhealthy behaviours.

Recovery workers can offer risk assessments, access to substitute prescribing, detoxification and community rehabilitation programmes, as well as harm reduction and relapse prevention interventions.

Mental health workers can offer specialist mental health assessments, access to secondary mental health services, as well as delivering bespoke interventions to improve adult mental health.

Motivational Interviewing compliments the Restorative and Trauma Informed approaches adopted by Portsmouth City.

To access the service: In the first instance have a discussion with a Family Safeguarding Worker or your manager.

For more information: Please contact:

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