

Social work service areas

Assessment and Intervention

Our Assessment and Intervention service, based in Crawley and Worthing, is a fast paced, busy and supportive team who assess and work with children and families and intervene where children need support to provide more children with help at an earlier stage. They also carry out Section 47 Enquiries, progress cases to Initial Child Protection Conference and children in need work whilst planning for permanence from day one.

Assessment and Intervention work directly with children and their families whilst also partnering with agencies including the police and health to ensure the best possible outcome with sustainable positive change. The service ensures a strong link with our Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help colleagues to promote local community support for children and families when social care no longer needs to be involved.

Family Support and Protection

Our busy, and aspirational Family Support and Protection team, based in Horsham, Worthing and Bognor Regis, work with children and families at the point in their journey where there are safeguarding concerns and act to reduce those risks. They play a key role in child protection, child in need cases and safety planning for children. Our team work with children throughout the court process; from pre-proceedings to initial court hearings and finally court proceedings to ensure there is consistent support for the child throughout.

Family Support and Protection undertake meaningful, transparent direct work with children and their families ensuring the most positive outcomes and work with children who return to their birth families where it is safe to do so. Our diverse team works within a positive, nurturing environment where successes are celebrated and individuals within the team are supported to grow and develop.

Adolescent and Family Resource

Not all families coming to the attention of Children's Social Care need care and protection due to abuse and neglect; acute stress can be a contributing factor to family dysfunction and breakdown.

The philosophy underpinning the work of the Adolescent and Family Resource Service, based in Horsham, Worthing and Bognor Regis, is to work both directly and indirectly with groups of young people on the edge of care.

Those who due to family disruption, conflict or abuse and neglect find themselves on the cusp of a statutory intervention and children and young people who are already looked after, where there is the opportunity for reintegration back to the family home.

This can also include young people who are subject to a Special Guardianship Order or Adoption Order.

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Children Looked After

Our dedicated Children Looked After service have a passion for making a difference to our looked after children, alongside an interest and experience of the adoption process. They work with and support children remaining in long term care where it is not safe for them to return home, children who may be placed for adoption or subject to Special Guardianship Orders, achieve permanent homes for children through reunification with their families and support children leaving care.

With a focus on outcomes-based care planning for children, including access to an in-house therapeutic assessment and intervention team, they work with young children and teenagers to support them to achieve and plan to build their lives as young adults ready to leave care and live independently.

"You've helped shape the person I am today and been there when I needed you most, so for that and for many other reasons, I wanted to say thank you! (Amy, care leaver)"

Children's Asylum Team

With Gatwick Airport within our borders, The Children's Asylum Team provides both a child protection duty response to the airport and manage new arrivals of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children across the county. The team is small and specialised with social workers who champion best practice with unaccompanied asylum seeking children and complete Merton compliant Age Assessments.

Working in partnership with a range of agencies, including a dedicated mental health practitioner, the Children's Asylum Team complete high quality and timely assessments of need that inform good care and pathway planning so that this vulnerable group have the right support, accommodation and legal advice and that their health, education and care needs are met.

Child and Family Intervention Service

The Child and Family Intervention Service is a specialist service providing a range of interventions based on Developmental Trauma, Attachment Theory and practice for families with children on Child Protection Plans and in the Public Law Outline including legal proceedings.

Interventions include PAMS (Parent Assessment Manual) assessments, pre-birth assessment, direct work, developing child and parent relationships, use of Video Interactive Guidance and narrative work to help parents understand the impact of their own history on the way they care for their child.

Comprehensive reports are written by Child & Family Intervention Service workers to assist the child's social worker formulate care plans, assess a parent's ability to make necessary changes and to maintain those changes over time.

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Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

As the first point of contact with children and families, our social workers in MASH can influence their entire journeys. As a fast-moving service everyone has a voice in relation to the development of the service and how everyone can make a difference to delivering the best outcomes for children and families.

Here at MASH we continue to develop practice and build strong relationships with a wide range of partner agencies including police, health and housing professionals who are co-located and working together to ensure the best outcomes for children and young people.

Fostering and Adoption

Fostering social workers act in a supervisory manner for foster carers and usually work across West Sussex. They undertake assessments of all notified fostering arrangements, promote awareness of fostering across the county with partner agencies and residents and ensure all on-going fostering arrangements are supported and visited within regulatory timeframes.

The Adoption Team work with prospective adoptive families, from adoption recruitment to support pre-adoption order, and work in partnership with colleagues from across Children's Services and the Regional Adoption Agency, Adoption South East. We also have social workers who specialise in Special Guardianship Orders and assessments.

Child Disability Team – Lifelong Services

The Child Disability Team sits within Lifelong Services and provides a specialist service for children with more complex, lifelong disabilities and autism. They work with the children, their families and other agencies to meet their assessed needs and help them achieve their potential. They provide on-going help and support to children in need, children looked after or children in need of protection.