

## Wakefield Council Children and Young People's Services

### Student Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to Wakefield Children's and Young People's Services. We are passionate about making Wakefield a great place for children to live, visit and grow up and we are ambitious for our young people and rightly so.

We know that making sure children have the best start in life has a huge impact on their health and wellbeing as they grow into adulthood. This is why we're working with partners to support families at the earliest opportunity so we are confident children are supported and safe throughout their childhood. So that our children can achieve their potential, we are committed to providing quality educational opportunities for every child in the district.

The voice of our children and young people is firmly at the heart of what we do, helping to design and shape services and influence decision making.

### How are the social work teams structured in Wakefield Children and Young People's Services?

Social Work is carried out on behalf of the Local Authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in partnership with other partners including health, the police, schools and the voluntary and private sector.

Children's Social Work is carried out by trained practitioners, the vast majority of whom hold a professional social work qualification. Children's Social Work practitioners work with children and young people in need of help and protection, whose needs cannot be met in universal or early help services. They also work with looked after children and young people leaving care services. They work within statutory child protection, looked after children and care leavers' procedures.

In Wakefield, the social work services across Children and Young People's Services comprises: social workers as part of a Multi-Agency front door service (MASH); Locality Safeguarding Teams; Looked after Children's teams; a Leaving Care Team; Edge of Care Team; Complex Care Needs Team; Children's Day and Residential services, the Fostering and Youth Services.

The **Safeguarding and Family Support Service** offers services and support to children young people and families who have reached the threshold for Children's Social Care in order to promote the best outcomes for them.

This service is organised into the following teams and services:

### **Integrated Front Door/Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Service**

This is the referral route into Children's Social Care which includes the MASH. It receives and deals with referrals from professionals and the public; making decisions about the level of concerns about a child and the appropriate responses.

### **Locality Safeguarding Teams**

Eight Locality Social Work Teams are committed to providing relationship based social work which puts the child at the heart of all social work practice.

The service works with children in need, children subject to child protection plans and children who are subject to care proceedings and endeavor to ensure that all children receive the right level of intervention at the right time to improve outcomes for them.

### **Looked After Children (LAC) and Leaving Care Teams**

There are three Looked after Children's Teams (LAC) and one Leaving Care Team. The LAC and Leaving Care Services provide support for children and young people who are in or who are leaving the care of the Local Authority.

The LAC services are committed to achieving positive outcomes and aspirational life changes for children in care and through to adulthood.

### **Fostering**

The Fostering Service provides the recruitment, assessment and supervisory services to foster carers for Wakefield. They are committed to providing the highest quality local care for children and young people who are in the care of the Local Authority.

### **Residential**

Wakefield has five Children's Homes, three are judged as outstanding by Ofsted and two as good. The homes provide care for children with disabilities, short breaks and shared care and two homes are for adolescents providing both short term and long term care.

### **Contact Team**

Our Contact Team provides contact services for children in care and their families.

### **Edge of Care Team**

The Edge of Care Team provides intensive support to families at the point of crisis to prevent problems escalating and to avoid the need for children or young people to come into care.

### **Safeguarding and Standards Service**

The Child Protection Review unit provides Child Protection Conferences and the Statutory Review Service for Children in Care

The Wakefield and District Safeguarding Children Board is supported by the WDSCB Team.

In addition to these services Social Workers are located in Teams across the **Education and Inclusion Service** in the Early Help Hubs, Youth Justice and Youth Support Service and the Complex Care Needs Teams

### **Complex Care Needs Team**

The Complex Care Needs Team is a generic social work team working with children and young people who have severe and multiple learning disabilities and very complex medical needs.

This includes child protection work, safeguarding children and young people, court work, children who are in the care of the local authority, children placed for adoption, children in receipt of short breaks and children and young people going through the transitions process.

The team also works with non-disabled siblings who are at risk of significant harm. The team is integrated with Adult Social Workers, supporting transition and planning into adulthood. The team works in line with the SEND reforms.

### **Early Help**

The Early Help Hubs offer support to families with children aged 0-19 (or 25 with SEND). The hubs are part of a wider district early help offer from partner agencies with the aim of working with families at the earliest opportunity to prevent issues escalating.

There are 4 teams across the district offering 'whole family' support within dedicated hub centres, children's centres and community centre venues.

### **Youth Justice and Youth Support Service**

The Youth Justice Service and Youth Work Service support young people and their families who are identified to be at risk of poor outcomes.

This includes statutory case management of criminal justice orders as well as targeted prevention support programmes for other vulnerable groups, e.g. young carers or those with drug and alcohol difficulties.

The service also work with an all age client group as part of NHS England funded Liaison and Diversion Service across the Wakefield and Leeds area. The team is multi-disciplinary and includes professionals drawn from health, social care, youth work, education and the Police.