**Wakefield Council**

**Children & Young People’s Services**

**Student Welcome and Introduction**

**Safeguarding and Family Support 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.

The 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**

Fifteen 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.

**Children in Care (CIC) and Leaving Care Teams**

There are four Children in Care Teams and one Leaving Care Team. The CIC 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 CIC 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 seven Children’s Homes, four for long term residential placements and three which provide care for children with disabilities, short breaks and shared 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.

**Education & Inclusion Services**

In addition to employing Social Workers in Teams across the Safeguarding and Family Support Service, Social Workers are also located in the Children First Hubs, Youth Justice and Youth Support Service and the Children with Complex Care Needs Teams.

**Children with 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 Children First 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, eg young carers or those with drug and alcohol difficulties.

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

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