

Children first and at the heart of all we do



Dudley Family Safeguarding

Stakeholder Briefing

Dudley is on track to launch our new Family Safeguarding model this summer (July)

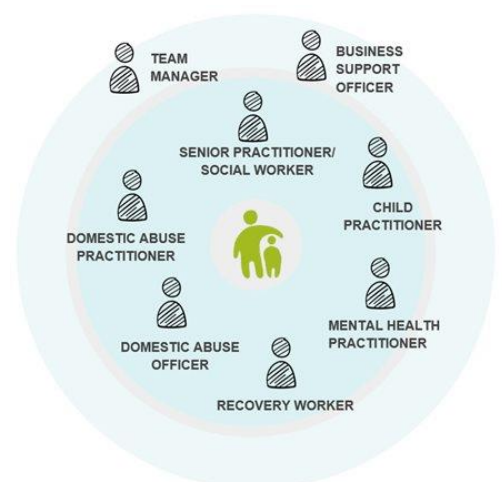
Family Safeguarding recognises that to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children, young people and families we need to work together as a system and accept shared responsibilities. This programme is also an integral part of the council's overall Children's Services' redesign. The first phase of the structure (including our cross-agency model of working) has now been agreed.

“families become involved with children’s social care because they are parenting in conditions of adversity, rather than because they have caused or are likely to cause significant harm to their children. We have a shared obligation to help families raise their children.”

What is Family Safeguarding – a shared obligation

Family Safeguarding is a whole family approach to working with children and families that supports parents to create sustained change for themselves and for their family.

Family Safeguarding brings together all professionals working with the family into one-multidisciplinary team. The professionals involved include social workers, domestic abuse specialists, substance misuse workers, mental health practitioners, and psychologists, all working together to address compounding issues of domestic violence and abuse, parental substance use and parental mental health. The teams will be based at Dudley Children's Services Offices, Corbyn Road, Russell's Hall Esstate, Dudley.



“proven and nationally recognised model..”

Developed in Hertfordshire, Family Safeguarding is a proven and nationally recognised model and has seen substantial reductions in the numbers of children taken into care and better outcomes for children and families.

The benefits of the model are also seen across the system with reductions in police call outs and presentations to A&E.

In Dudley we are using the same Family Safeguarding principles, where possible, to support our young people where the risk factors are more likely to be external to the family such as through exploitation. These multi-disciplinary teams will be called Adolescent Safeguarding Teams.

The Partnership – Our Commitment

A Partnership Board made of representatives from across the borough are working together and are committed to:

- Keeping more children within their families in line with the vision of the Children Act 1989.
- Placing specialist adult domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse workers within children’s services under the direction of the social work team manager, ensuring continuity in provision
- Providing their staff with personal and professional supervision and development from their respective disciplines and being responsible for Human Resources matters.
- Adapting recording methods and information sharing approaches to enable identification of measurable impacts of Family Safeguarding and contribute to performance monitoring and reporting.
- Implementing group supervision arrangements to ensure shared ownership and understanding of the work we are undertaking with individual families.
- Taking part in any local or national evaluation of Family Safeguarding
- Exploring funding mechanisms across the partnership to ensure sustainability of the approach if the model demonstrates these outcomes in our area.



For more information, please visit <https://www.dudleycpp.org.uk/dudleyfamilysafeguarding>

Partners are requested to download the *Partnership Charter* and *Partnership Board poster* and display across settings. Please contact shelley.brooks@dudley.gov.uk for printed copies.



Working as One Council in
the historic capital of the Black Country

