



One Minute Guide

Social Work Teams



Coventry City Council

Help and Protection Introduction Pack

What is Children's Social Work?

Social work is the activity carried out on behalf of the local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in partnership with other partners such as health, the police and schools.

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, young people, and their families in need of help and protection whose needs cannot be met in universal or early help services.

Referral Process

A referral is made to the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub). The MASH is a multi agency team where information is triaged and a Threshold Decision applied. From the MASH a number of outcomes can occur; advice and guidance, sign posting, Early Help and some will lead to a Statutory service by Social Work teams.

What do we have in Coventry

In Coventry's Help and Protection Service, we have Children's Social Work Area Teams. Following restructure over the last few years, there is now 15 teams across 4 areas being Central, West, East and South. In Help and Protection also there is a Horizon Team which works with Child Exploitation. Each team comprises of Social Workers and Advanced Social Workers, one Senior Social Worker and Child and Family Worker, all led by a dedicated Team Manager.

Area Social Work Teams work directly with children, young people and their families in need of help and protection, and those children subject to care proceedings

Help and Protection will work with families to support change and prevent escalation of needs and risks.



The following provides a very brief outline of what social workers do:

Advice, information and referral - MASH social workers provide advice and information to practitioners who get in touch; they work with multi-agency partners at the Front Door to decide whether a referral needs to be made to Area Social Work Teams based on the **Right Help at the Right Time** Guidance.

Consent from families will be obtained as required in line with Data Protection.

Assessment - Area social work teams receive referrals from the MASH once Threshold for Services have been met and will allocate the referral to a social worker for a **Child and Family Assessment**, this could be a short 10 day assessment or full 45 day multi-agency Child and Family Assessment. This will all be fully completed in partnership with the family.

Outcomes of an assessment can vary and will be specific to the family, an assessment could consider there are no needs or risks, the outcome could lead to a Early Help support and for some families further planning by the social work teams may be required. Whatever the outcome this will be decided in partnership with the family and partners.

Planning – depending on the outcome of the Child and Family Assessment, and the needs and risks identified, the team manager decides if the child’s needs are best met by a child in need plan, or a child protection plan.

Reviews of the plan – All plans for children and young people are required to be reviewed at a minimum of every six months, however they will usually be reviewed more frequently. Child Protection Plans and looked after child plans are reviewed independently.

Statutory visits – Social workers are required to visit children subject to a child protection plan or where they are looked after, at set intervals based on their status. The child must be seen alone and their views sought (unless they are a baby, when they should be observed). These are called statutory visits and are intended to promote the welfare and protection of children, to ensure their views are heard and acted upon and the child is seen.

Transfer – when social work intervention is no longer required, social workers with partners and in partnership with the family will decide how the child’s needs will be met in future. This may include a lead practitioner being identified and early help provided in universal and / or targeted services.

Key contacts

Name (Social Worker) _____ Telephone _____

Name (Team Manager) _____ Telephone _____

Name: _____ Role: _____ Telephone: _____

Name: _____ Role: _____ Telephone: _____