



Walsall Family Safeguarding Overview August 2020



**Strengthening Families,
Protecting Children Family Safeguarding Model**

An illustration of six diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, standing in a row and smiling. From left to right: a girl with long dark hair holding a book, a boy with orange hair, a girl with dark skin and braids holding a book, a boy with a green beanie, a girl with blonde hair holding a book, and a boy with glasses and a red plaid shirt.

Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

Overview

- Funded by DfE, developed in Hertfordshire, second phase of roll out
- The best ways to keep children safe are by supporting families wherever possible
- A positive strength based approach that dovetails beautifully with the values which underpin restorative practice
- Key issues, substance abuse, mental health and domestic abuse

Where are we going?

- We will strive for genuine sustainable change with families rather than chase compliance
- Wherever it is safe and possible we will keep children at home with their families
- Our work with families will be motivational not adversarial
- We will work collaboratively and supportively in multi-disciplinary teams, improving both quality and efficiency
- We will streamline our processes and note keeping whilst ensuring the right information is available for good quality decisions
- We will develop and enhance our partnerships, in localities and across Walsall and beyond

What will families notice?

- Contacts with families are positive and looking for the things they are doing right, the times when it has worked well and we notice positive changes in their parenting
- Integration of support, co-location of a range of professionals who also coordinate their interventions
- Doing our best to help the families stay together wherever it is safe to do so
- More consistency in thresholds for action

How will the journey change for staff?

- A team workbook is initiated when a family is referred-in where there are issues of substance abuse, mental health or domestic abuse
- The unborn/child/children are included unless have contextual issues
- Children with a disability where they are in a FS team are included, those with complex and specialist disability issues (in the specialist team) are not
- The workbook means all workers share a record and it pulls up an automatic MDT summary
- This is reviewed monthly for each family in group supervisions (notes taken by administrative staff)
- Parents have opportunities to work with adult specialist workers one-to-one and/or engage in group work
- Parenting/Family assessment process/ programme

How will we know when we have got there?

- The DfE have commissioned “what works” to evaluate the programme, looking at measures like; numbers of children on a child protection plan and numbers of looked after children
- They have already conducted focus groups and observations of work with families in Walsall, going forward they will be seeing how well we are implementing the model (fidelity)
- In addition we will be developing some outcome measures across the partnership, looking at things like measurable reduction in the incidence of domestic violence and acute admissions for mental health episodes

The tools and techniques for the journey

The priorities/must do training

- Motivational interviewing (in two parts)
- Threshold and family rights training
- Workbook training
- Family safeguarding intervention model *
- Managers training re MDT working and reflective auditing

*Mop up day on 26th August, either a whole day for all and/or some two hour slots depending on what is needed

Keeping us on the straight and narrow

- Continuous practice skills MI
- Training sustainability
- Admin staff and adult specialist workers have bespoke training

Clear links to the five service practice priorities especially

- Direct work skills
- Recording

Hertfordshire

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/business/services-for-businesses-charities-and-other-public-bodies/hertfordshire-family-safeguarding.aspx>

See attached Guardian award article

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilm7OfqGN4g&t=2s> Hertfordshire 'under one roof' used as part of recruitment campaign

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w41G5tyXdtE> practitioners talking about FS Model

<https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2020/01/27/family-safeguarding-model-helping-transform-practice/>

<https://local.gov.uk/pioneering-changes-child-protection-services-hertfordshire-county-council>

<https://www.liquidlogic.co.uk/children/family-safeguarding/>

- Cambridgeshire

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection/family-safeguarding>

Wave 2 authorities

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlZ07PPbAkU> West Berkshire,
BBC South Today

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=re8HiQlqCtE> Peterborough City
Council

<https://www.socialworkpeterborough.co.uk/working/family-safeguarding/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTO4WahYI8I> Bracknell Forest

Self-funding authorities

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aPm6ntkOWo> FS Surrey