

COUNCIL: 25 OCTOBER 2018

CHILDREN & FAMILIES STATEMENT

Family Help and Support

Children's Social Services in Cardiff are working with increasing numbers of referrals, undertaking an increasing number of assessments and the Council is responsible as Corporate Parent for the highest ever level of looked after children.

On 11th October 2018, the Cabinet agreed a new delivery model for Family Help and Support in Cardiff. The new approach aims to:

- Reduce the number of children who experience poor outcomes through their childhood because they have experienced abuse, trauma, neglect or exploitation for longer than they needed to.
- Raise educational attainment and aspirations of children, young people, and their parents, thereby enabling access to better employment opportunities in the longer term.

The service provided will be proportionate to the needs of the individual family or child. For some families, simple signposting and advice will be sufficient; others will need a greater degree of intervention. The service will have a strengths based approach and will use proven techniques to help families build resilience and avoid the need for ongoing support. More intensive support will be provided where needed, to avoid future safeguarding issues.

The new model contains a new approach to family help and support based on three new family support services:

- A Family Gateway service to respond to all referrals and enquiries and offer information and advice.
- A closely-linked Family Help service to respond promptly to families who need some short-term support, including a combination of signposting, practical assistance and help with parenting.
- A Family Support service which is able to work with families with more complex or severe problems and where there is a real risk that without intensive support, more significant intervention would be needed.

Assistant Director of Children's Services

As you will be aware, after four years of working with the Council as the Assistant Director of Children's Services, Irfan Alam, has left the Council to take up a new role with Birmingham Children's Trust. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Irfan for all his hard work and commitment. His contribution is very much appreciated by staff, colleagues and Members alike.

Deborah Driffield, formerly Statutory Director of Social Services in City and County of Swansea, has taken up the role. She has worked at a senior level in both Adult and Children's Services and has a strong practice background in Children's Services. We welcome Deborah to Cardiff Council.

Councillor Graham Hinchey
Cabinet Member for Children & Families
19 October 2018