



LANCASHIRE

**Family  
Safeguarding**

**NEWSLETTER**  
JANUARY 2021

## Welcome from Edwina Grant OBE, Lancashire County Council's Executive Director for Education and Children's Services.

I am pleased to be able to share this newsletter with you on the day that we introduce the new way of working with families in Lancashire.

This has been a really challenging year, especially for children and families. Working together in partnership with schools, health and the emergency services, staff have worked hard in communities in Lancashire to deliver what is needed. Services have continued to be delivered throughout the pandemic and the radical changes this created, including to our working arrangements.

The pandemic has added additional pressure onto families due to the numbers of people whose employment and home lives have been affected by it. Despite all this disruption to everyday life, we have continued to develop our new Family Safeguarding Services. This new approach will help us to take the opportunity of putting the right support in place for families, as soon as we can.

From January 4th, our new teams will be in place and beginning to improve the support offered to families. Through both the Family Safeguarding teams and our partners in early help organisations, we will be putting support in place at every level in our local communities.

This different way of working will mean that we will be listening to families more. We want to make sure as we move forward that we learn from their experiences, and actively involve families, partners and teams in making the improvements we have planned real.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, our teams, our partners and families who have been part of this journey so far, and send my best wishes to all our teams and their families in 2021.

Keeping families  
together in Lancashire

## FAMILY SAFEGUARDING MODEL AND APPROACH FROM JANUARY 2021

The Family Safeguarding model is a new way of working with families. It is already being used successfully across other areas of the country. Since March we have trained over 500 people in our teams in the approach and in motivational interviewing, which will enable social workers to work with families in a positive way.

Family Safeguarding focuses on a whole family approach and makes it easier for parents to access all the support they need from within one team. A big change is that the Family Safeguarding teams will now consist of Adult Specialists working with parents or carers with mental health, domestic abuse and/or substance misuse needs.

A benefit of this is that Social Workers and Support Workers will have more time to establish trust and meaningful relationships with children and families. The Family Safeguarding team will ensure that children and families receive the right support at the right time.

## PARTICIPATION ENGAGEMENT AND WORKING TOGETHER

We are committed to listening and working in a collaborative way with children, families and partner agencies. We have already seen some positive changes since we started to work in this way.

Children and adults are now involved in the recruitment process, and interviewing panels for roles in the new Family Safeguarding teams. This is now embedded in our future approach. This way of working is already reaping rewards. Children and young people have said that they are being given opportunities to contribute and participate in changes that are being made to improve our services, and that they feel listened to.

THE COMMENTS BELOW ARE EXAMPLES OF THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM PARENTS ABOUT OUR NEW WAY OF WORKING:

'I have found working with my Social Worker really helpful in every aspect and I have learnt so much and this has now set me up to be a good Dad for...' (Single father, child on child protection plan.)

'...really good what you are doing to help families stay together as I know we have a good Social Worker, yes might have been a bumpy road but she helped us stay together as a family and that is important.'

(Parent of two young children on child in need plan)

'this has been great from the start for me to have a relationship with my daughter.'

(Father to a baby on a child in need plan)

'family safeguarding sounds more simple.' (Mother – anonymous)





## How we will work with you...

Changing the way we work to support families to stay together.

1

Supporting you to identify your strengths, needs and any changes to make.

2

Working together we will help you with parenting skills, drug and alcohol use, domestic abuse and mental health needs.

3

Changing the way we work so we will spend more time with you and your family to make lasting changes.

4

Listening to children and families views to improve how we work.

We will offer families the right support at the right time, helping you to stay together.

Social Workers and professionals from partner agencies are enthusiastic and excited about Family Safeguarding and feel Lancashire is ready for this positive change.

Alongside Family Safeguarding Teams in Children's Services, partners, schools and organisations in local areas are looking forward to the investment in the Children and Family Wellbeing services. These services will provide support to schools and partners in delivering plans for improvement and early help.

Our recent leaflet for parents was produced using this new partnership approach. The important messages in it are shared by us all, and are at the heart of the approach that we will all take in the future.

## SIGN UP TO RECEIVE FUTURE EDITIONS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

We will be producing and distributing this newsletter in a new way from our next edition in February.

Because of GDPR rules, we will need you to sign up to continue to receive this newsletter. This is very easy to do. Please just visit our website

**[www.lancashire.gov.uk/familysafeguarding](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/familysafeguarding)**  
and sign up there.