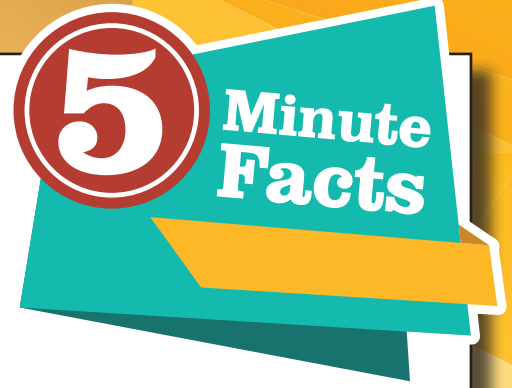


Children's Social Work



What is it?

In Bolton we have a children's social work service, which comprises of social workers who carry out their duties on behalf of the Local Authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in partnership with other professionals such as health, police, voluntary sector and schools.

Children's social work is carried out by trained practitioners who hold a professional social work qualification.

Children's social work practitioners work with children and young people in need of help and protection whose needs cannot be met in universal or early help services. They work within statutory child protection and looked after children and care leavers legislation and procedures.

Our social work teams are Referral and Assessment (front door), Safeguarding, Looked After Children and Leaving Care teams. We also have a dedicated Children with Disability Team.

What do we have in Bolton?

Referral and Assessment teams work short term with new cases that are referred to them either by the family themselves or other professionals from schools, health, police, etc. The Referral and Assessment Team receives referrals from the Multi Agency Screening and Safeguarding Service (MASSS), which is a team of social workers and police who screen all referrals in respect of children in need and suspected significant harm. Once an assessment has been identified by the MASSS, the Referral and Assessment team then works with the family to identify services

to support them and, if necessary, transfer to the longer term teams Safeguarding or Looked After Children. There are three Referral and Assessment teams all based together in one venue.

Safeguarding Social Work teams work directly with children in need of help and protection and those children subject to care proceedings and adoption plans.

There are three Safeguarding teams based together who work closely with local schools, children's centres, early start teams, health visitors and other practitioners involved in working with the same children.

There are three Looked After Children Social Work teams based together who work with children and young people up to the age of 16. These teams focus on the specific needs of looked after children, implementing plans to ensure children and young people receive the best possible placements and outcomes both physically and emotionally.

Our Leaving Care team work with young people from the age of 16 to 23 years of age, supporting, advising and working with them to prepare for independence and gain the best possible education and work opportunities to live positively within their community.

Our Children with Disability team undertake assessments of children with significant disability and consider specialist support and services for the child and family. The social workers within this team work closely with health, education and other partner agencies.

Children's Social Work

5 Minute Facts

The team works with a range of children who have high level needs, may be at risk of significant harm or some children who become looked after children who require specialist placements and support.

In Bolton, children's social work practitioners hold different roles. These include: newly qualified Social Workers, Social Workers, Team Managers, Deputy Team Managers, Heads of Service and Chief Officers. In addition, Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's) for looked after children, who also chair and review Child Protection conferences.

What do they do?

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

Assessment – All social work teams carry out assessments, Bolton's assessment is called a Child and Family assessment; this covers domains of the child's profile, family and environmental factors, alongside parenting capacity.

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. If a child becomes 'Looked After' they will have a Looked After Child Plan. Care Leavers have a Pathway Plan.

Reviews of the plan – All plans for children and young people are required to be reviewed at a minimum of every six months. Child Protection Plans and Looked After Child Plans are reviewed independently by Independent Reviewing Officers.

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 work with practitioners to 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 and for more information...

Director of People Tel: **01204 332010**

Assistant Director Staying Safe Tel: **01204 332010**

Working Together 2013 is the key guidance for children's social work. You can find out information about Bolton children's social work from Children's Social Work Service.

All the local info I need is just a click away!



www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk

**Bolton
Council**