

Child and Family Support Service

The Child and Family Support Service is a new initiative available through Sunderland Children's Centres and Extended Schools for all children aged from birth to 12 years and their families.

The service is designed to help support children and families with low level multiple needs from escalating into a social care or safeguarding situation in the future.

The child and family support team consists of social workers and child and family workers, who are based within Sunderland Children's Centres. Access to the service is via the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) referral system.

The Child and Family Support Service aims to help families by offering support where:

A child is at risk of poor school attendance

A child is on the borders of offending or anti-social behaviour

A child is displaying disruptive or challenging behaviour

A child is displaying provocative or risk taking behaviour

A child has poor hygiene, which may lead to alienation

Parent or child is displaying significant low self esteem

Parents/carers learning is significantly affected by health problems

There is concerns about a child's developmental progress

Parents/carers have alcohol or drug misuse, mental health concerns or suffering domestic violence

There is significant parental vulnerability identified

As part of the extended schools parental support core offer, child and family workers also have a role in supporting schools by:

Attending information sessions for parents at key transition points to identify families that may need additional support

Providing information about nationally and locally available sources of information, advice and support

Providing structured parenting programmes in partnership with school staff

Identifying and supporting families to access family learning sessions

For more information please contact:

Sunderland West 0191 561 2050

Sunderland North 0191 561 8126

Sunderland South & East 0191 553 8809

Washington 0191 219 3995

Coalfields 0191 553 6576