

Blackpool Council Children's Services

Our new team names reflect our new way of working with children and their families, incorporating the 'Blackpool Families Rock' values and principles with a clear aim to support our children and families well and to help them with the right support, from the right service, at the right time.

The Request for Support Hub is our "one front door" service that provides advice, support and triage/screen referrals and phone calls to ensure that referrals are signposted to the appropriate support service targeted at the right level of need, with the aim of meeting the needs of children and families at the earliest level. The Hub accommodates MASH services that brings multi-agency professionals together to gather and share information when there are safeguarding concerns.

The Assessment and Support teams undertake assessments to ensure families and children are well supported, this includes providing short term interventions that build assets, reduce harm and improve relationships during the period of assessment.

The Strengthening and Supporting Families teams work with families on longer term complex Child in Need and Child Protection Plans, they work hard to develop professional and productive relationships with children and their families to support positive change that families can maintain. To give the service chance to build relationships with children we have moved the care proceedings to the Supporting our Children team.

The Families Together Team work with children and families to strengthen and improve family relationships to support children to remain living within their family home safely and sustainably.

The Awaken team is our Exploitation and Missing from Home Service, this is a multi-agency team who work together to reduce the prevalence and impact of child exploitation in Blackpool.

Supporting Children with Complex Needs team support children and young people from the ages of 0-25, with Special Educational Needs who have EHC plans, they provide support to families so that children can continue to live at home, the team will support young people into adulthood through a robust transition planning.

The Supporting Our Children Team work with children that the local authority is looking after and help them to find a stable place to live and make plans with them for their future.

The Leaving Care Team supports 'Our Children and Young People' aged 15 ¾ and above with care experience to achieve their potential, and help them prepare for independence and where possible support them to return home to their families, Personal Advisors support their young people to ensure a positive transition to adulthood.

The Fostering Team recruit and support families who can provide our children with a loving, safe and secure environment when they cannot be with their own families. They assess and support not only mainstream foster carers, but also undertake assessment of connected/Special Guardianship carers.

The Adoption Service for Blackpool is provided by the Regional Adoption for Blackpool and Lancashire, they support families who wish to adopt through a rigorous assessment and suitability process, and help children who cannot return to their own families find a home for life.

The Safeguarding Quality and Review team have both Child Protection (CP) Chairs and Independent reviewing officers (IROs). Our CP Chairs facilitate CP Conferences to support families and professionals to discuss and understand the concerns and the impact of these on the children, and to recognise and build on the strengths of the family. Dependant on the outcome they will co-produce a purposeful and meaningful Child Protection or Child in Need plan, with a clear focus on securing positive outcomes for the children. Our IRO's are the champions of 'Our Children' in Blackpool who oversee and review the plans through Our Children's reviews, and quality assure the plan and support between meetings.