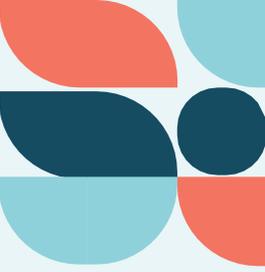


Families First Partnership Programme Event

February 2026





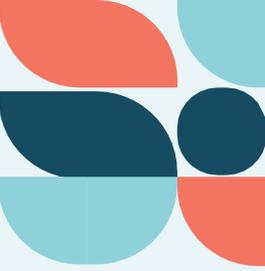
Welcome

Sally Williams
Director of Children & Families

Housekeeping

- **Refreshments** – 9-9:30am and again 10:25am
- **Toilets** – along the corridor to the left
- **Breaks** – 10:25am and lunch at 12:10pm until 12:55pm
- **Fidget toys** – please use as needed
- **Power Point Slides** – these will be sent to you after the event

Event ends 1:50pm (approximately)
Today's full agenda is available on your table



Community Early Help

Sarah Martin
Service Manager, FIS



Overview of Session

- **Overview of Community Early Help in Sheffield**
- **Current Early Help Provision**
- **Managing Emerging Needs Before Targeted Services**
- **Partner Table Exercise: Identifying, Supporting, and Building Opportunities**

Universal

Services that are available to all.

Early Community Support

Is where additional needs are met by universal services and early community support/ targeted services work together.

*Support provided by a single agency. Lead professional required for multi-agency coordination.

Family Help

Targeted Support & Protection

Multi-disciplinary, locality based support that is accessible and welcoming, well-coordinated and seamless, and tailored to meet the unique needs of children and their families. Family Help Lead Practitioners may come from a wide range of backgrounds, including education, social workers, health professionals, and family support workers.

The model integrates targeted early help services with support for children in need, as outlined in Section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Social work oversight must always be provided when children are open under S17.

Social workers will always case hold children subject to S47 enquiries, those with a child protection plan or those subject to pre or legal proceedings.

*Support by a single agency or multi-agency support.

Multi-Agency Child Protection Team

Children at risk of significant harm - S47 investigations led by children's social care and/or the police.

Multi-agency child protection team comprises police, health, social worker and education. Joint investigations supported by this team.

Child protection coordinators are the Lead Child Protection Practitioner and provide wrap around support.

The key worker for the child is the Social Worker in the Family Help team.

Early community support
Lead Professional

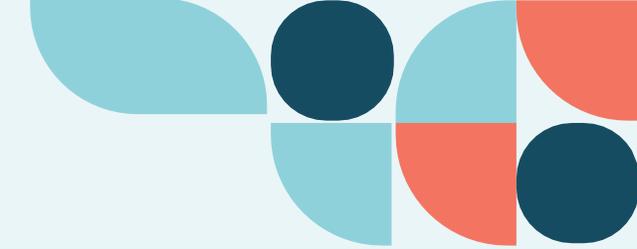
Family Help
Lead Practitioner/ Social Worker

Lead Child Protection
Practitioner

Pathways to support

DRAFT

The concept of early help



Definition of Early Help

Early help means providing timely support to children and families at first signs of difficulty to prevent escalation.

Benefits of Early Intervention

Early intervention improves health, education, and social outcomes while reducing long-term public service costs.

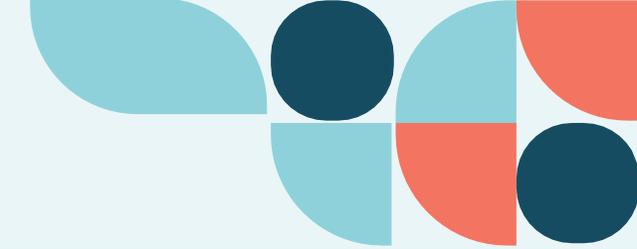
Multi-Agency Cooperation

Effective early help involves collaboration across agencies and tailored family support for holistic issue resolution.

An Early Help System



Making the connections – journey so far



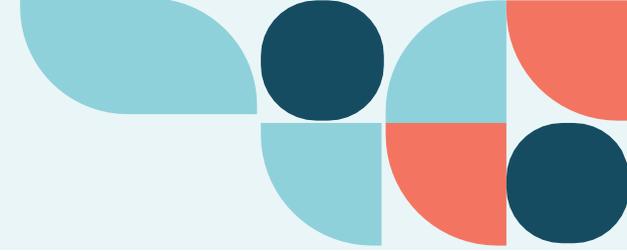
Family Hubs – Best Start in Life and the journey of the last 4 years

Exploring how we join the dots

Understanding Family Journeys – and how could we have responded differently

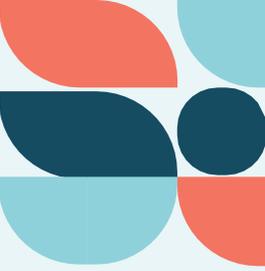
Opening the conversation with partners

Co Design



- Within your tables please discuss and capture:
- How do you identify families with emerging support needs?
- What works well supporting families?
- What are the gaps/challenges?
- What are potential solutions?





Your Role in Shaping Family Help in Sheffield

Louise Bower

Service Manager, FIS

- 
- **Rebalancing the system towards supporting families with early help**
 - **Routine use of Family Group Decision making**
 - **A system of services that wrap around the family as needed**

“What we need to do is to tilt the system firmly back to supporting the adults, the carers, the parents, the families who love their children” ... “the system has failed to recognise relationships and the strength of families”

— Josh MacAlister, Chair of the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care

The overriding message from the review was that loving relationships hold the solution to caring for children, and that we need to reset the social care system to provide more earlier support for families.

FAMILY HELP FUNDAMENTALS

A System Change

- **Family Help is not a children's social care reform – it's a *system reform*.**
- **Families First is about how the system behaves around families**
- **Outcomes depend less on structures and more on:**
 - relationships
 - clarity of roles
 - confidence to act early
- **Education, health, VCFS and faith settings are often:**
 - the *first to notice*
 - the *most trusted*
 - the *longest-standing relationship*

Family Help succeeds or fails on what happens in your services, not just in the local authority

What are the Problems and Solutions?

Current system pain points:

- Families repeating their story
- Escalation driven by thresholds, not need
- Professionals working hard but sometimes in parallel
- Relationship breakdown or change when risk increases
- Help arriving too late or too fragmented

The Families Help response:

- One trusted lead relationship with a Family Help Lead Practitioner
- Support that flexes and expands with need
- Expertise added without handing families on
- Whole-family, strengths-based practice across the range of services that work with children & families

Key Changes in Practice and Relationships

Single Lead Practitioner

A single trusted Lead Practitioner supports the family throughout, ensuring continuity and strong relationships.

Flexible Support Intensity

Support can increase or decrease without breaking the relationship, allowing families to feel continuously supported.

Collaborative and Evolving Plan

One evolving plan is collaboratively shaped with the family, avoiding fragmented assessments and interventions.

Multi-agency Expertise

Professionals from various agencies contribute expertise as needed, without taking over the case.



Early Concern Identification

Concerns are first noticed in universal community settings like schools or clinics, enabling early intervention.

Coordinated Family Support

Lead Practitioner coordinates support involving education, health, VCFS, and other partners for whole-family care.

Risk Management and Continuity

Child protection expertise joins as needed while maintaining trusted relationships and adjusting support intensity.

Strengths-based Evolving Plan

Family tells their story once; the support plan evolves with their needs ensuring trust and continuity.

End-to-end experience for families

What this Means for *Your* Services

For health, education and VCF partners:

- You may hold the longest and most trusted relationship with the family
- Your role in this is to:
 - act earlier – notice when issues begin to show
 - share responsibility with the family and with other professionals
 - stay connected even as needs escalate and other agencies may need to be involved

You may be the right person to be the **Family Help Lead Practitioner** and begin a **Family Help Assessment & Plan**, involving the family's chosen support network using **family group decision making techniques**.



What this Means for Leaders in Partner Agencies

This is about:

- Being an active part of the early intervention & prevention offer for families
- Willingness to recognise when your agency is right to act as Family Help Lead Practitioner (or is already acting in this role but without it being noted as such)
- Collaborative working to develop a single Family Help Assessment for Sheffield and to integrate this into your service's ways of working
- Committing your teams to work with family's chosen support networks as part of a Team around the Family
- Supporting your workforce with training to improve their level of skill, knowledge and confidence to work more holistically with families
- Working together to identify and proactively offer support before issues escalate



Collaborative Model Design

Families First model is co-designed with insights from education, health, VCFS, and faith sectors to suit Sheffield's communities.

Leadership Reflection and Influence

Leaders are encouraged to reflect on their system roles, consider necessary agency changes, and support staff adapting new practices.

Vision for Family Help

The focus is creating a more relational, responsive, and effective system that actively supports families.

Co-Design and Leadership Agency

Your role in shaping this



The model is being **co-designed**



Practice insight is critical



Leadership behaviours will shape success



*The question isn't 'how does Family Help affect us?'
It's 'how do we want our part of the system to
behave around families?'*

Workshop Discussions

Self-reflect:

What stood out for you about Family Help?

What feels genuinely different from how the system works now?

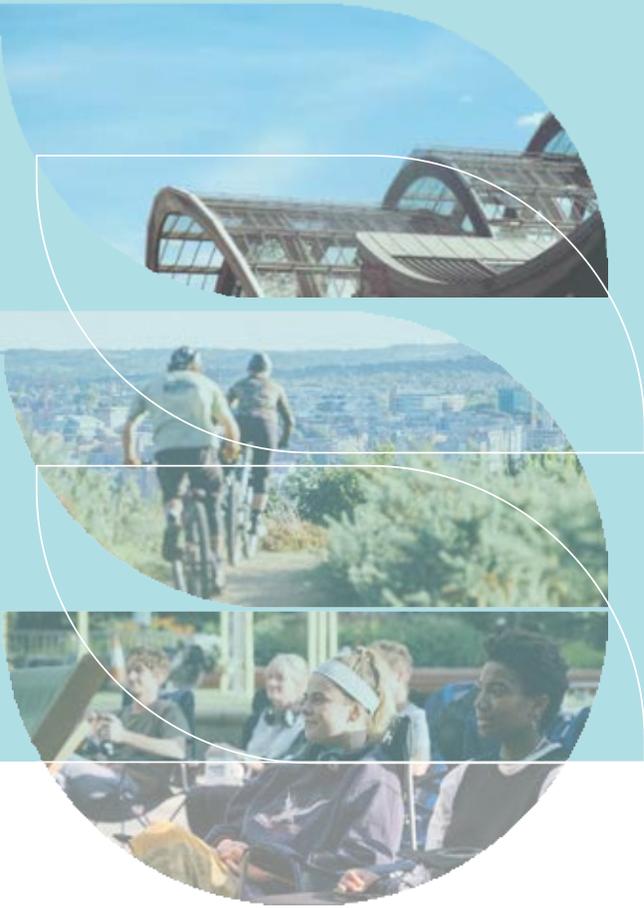
What excites you? What concerns you?

Discuss:

Where does Family Help *align* with how your service already works?

Where does it challenge current ways of working?

What behaviours would need to change across the system?

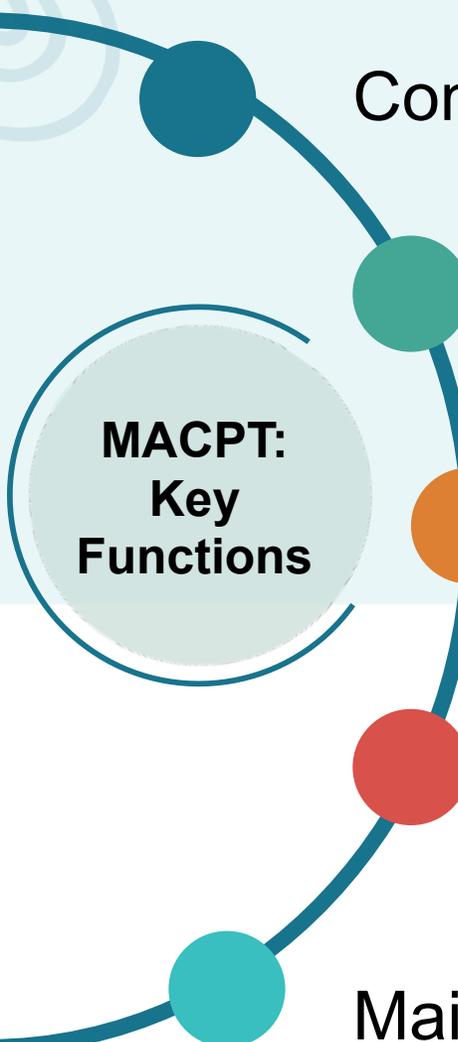


Families First Partnership Programme: Multi-agency Child Protection Team (MACPT)

**Michelle Kingan – Service Manager
Quality Assurance & Improvement Service**



Multi-agency child protection teams: regulation-making powers (DfE Policy Paper, 2026)



**MACPT:
Key
Functions**

Convene strategy meetings and lead S47 enquiries

Convene child protection conferences

Oversee the development & delivery of child protection plan and keep plans under review

Provide case consultation for practitioners who need MACPT expertise

Maintain an understanding of patterns of significant harm in the local area & agency responses.

Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT)

 Social Work
Manager

 Police

 Health Lead

 Education Lead
Advisor

 Lead Child
Protection
Practitioner (LCPP)

 Wider Partners
Access to wider partners via the
safeguarding hub



***This structure represents roles,
not number of staff***

Centrally based team*

A S47 strategy meeting is required

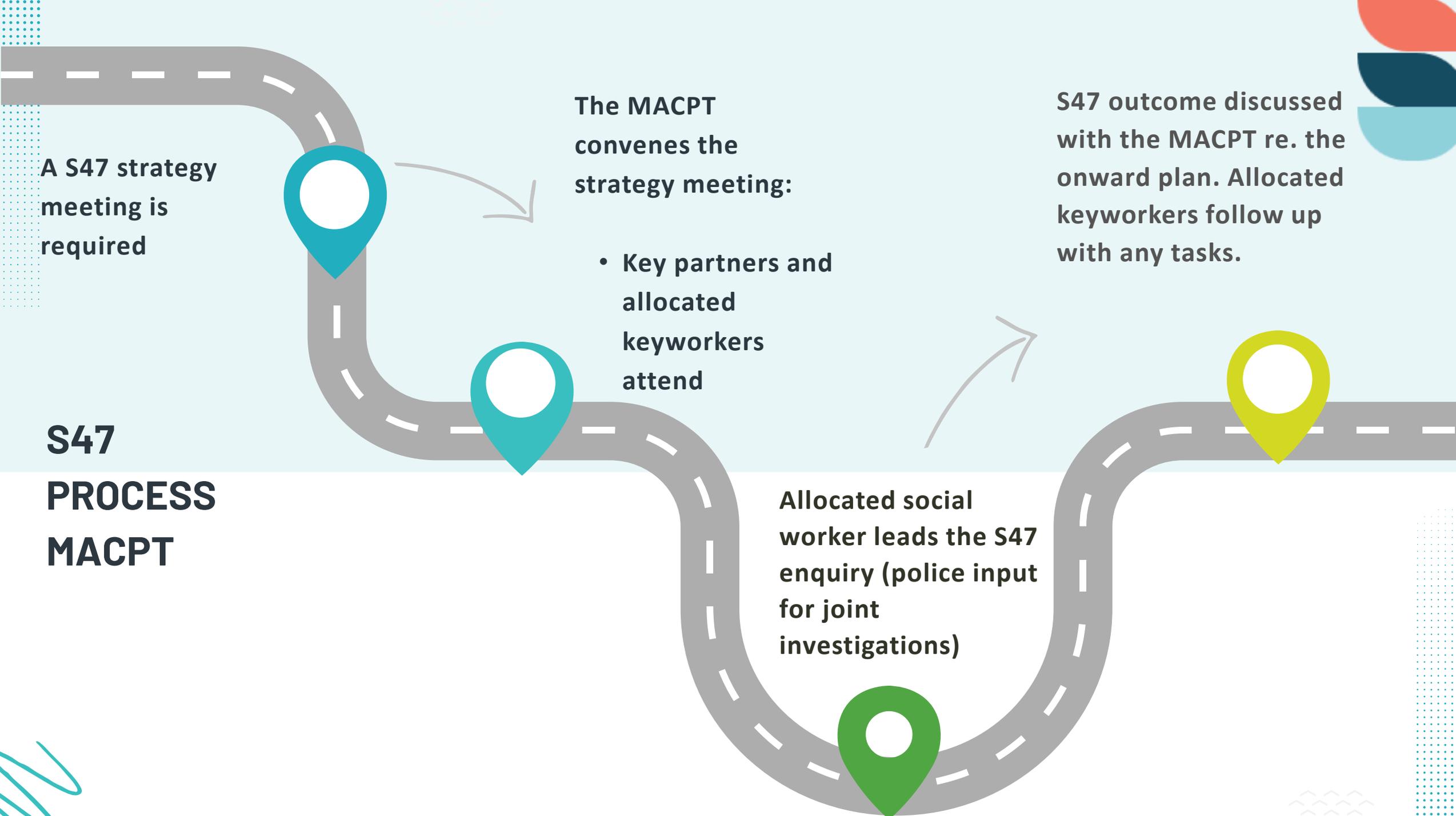
S47 PROCESS MACPT

The MACPT convenes the strategy meeting:

- Key partners and allocated keyworkers attend

Allocated social worker leads the S47 enquiry (police input for joint investigations)

S47 outcome discussed with the MACPT re. the onward plan. Allocated keyworkers follow up with any tasks.





Lead Child Protection Practitioner (LCPP)

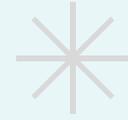
A social worker with substantial frontline child protection experience, knowledge of legislation, statutory guidance and safeguarding best practice.

Leading investigations, chairing multi-agency meetings and navigating high-risk, oversee the development & delivery of child protection plans.

Clear communication and ability to collaborate with partners under pressure. Use applied analytical approaches.

Making decisions independently and managing risk effectively.

Supporting other practitioners through complex assessments and casework.



HEALTH LEAD

Registered health professional with knowledge & experience of child health & safeguarding

The ability to interpret & analyse health information from a range of sources to provide a clinical view.

Knowledge of safeguarding children legislation and knowledge & experience of multi-agency working.

Strategic Input

Resolves cross system barriers

Operational leadership

Improved feedback loops

Improving practice & outcomes

Mobilises services

Early identification of unmet need

Quality assurance



**South Yorkshire Police
within
Families First Programme**



Detective Inspector – Laura Jones

Why are Police involved in the Reforms?

Working Together to Safeguard Children states that Police are one of the statutory partners within Safeguarding and must work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area (known as multi-agency safeguarding arrangements).

The Children's Wellbeing and School Bill (Clause 3) introduces Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPT) to these arrangements and to support the Local Authority to discharge its Child Protection duties.

This Clause requires dedicated resources to be provided by Safeguarding Partners – this includes the Police as a statutory Safeguarding partner.

Multi Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPT)





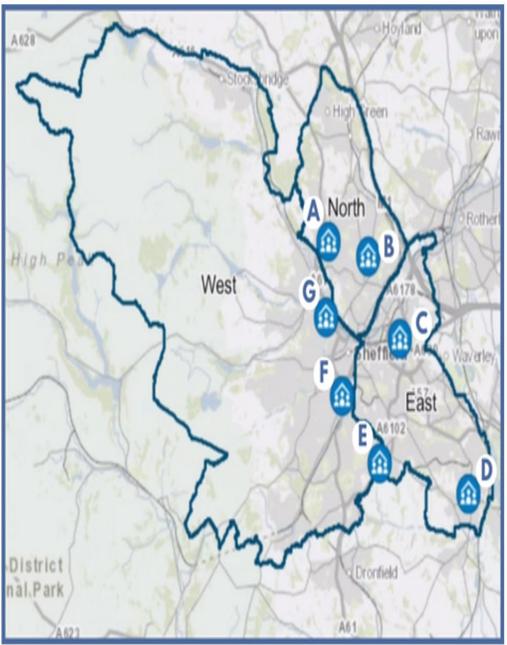
SYP within Multi Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPT)



Police Representative within MACPT

- A Police representative with sufficient level of seniority or decision-making authority – Sergeant or Officer Manager
- Knowledge of statutory framework including Working together to Safeguard Children
- Experience of working in Child Protection
- Clear understanding and management of s47 joint investigations
- Experience of decision making and risk assessments in Child protection Investigations
- Experience of serious and complex safeguarding offences

Other Potential Police Involvement



Neighbourhood Policing Teams

Provide specialist support to Locality Family Help teams using relevant skills and experience

Area specific knowledge and information sharing

Other SYP Resources

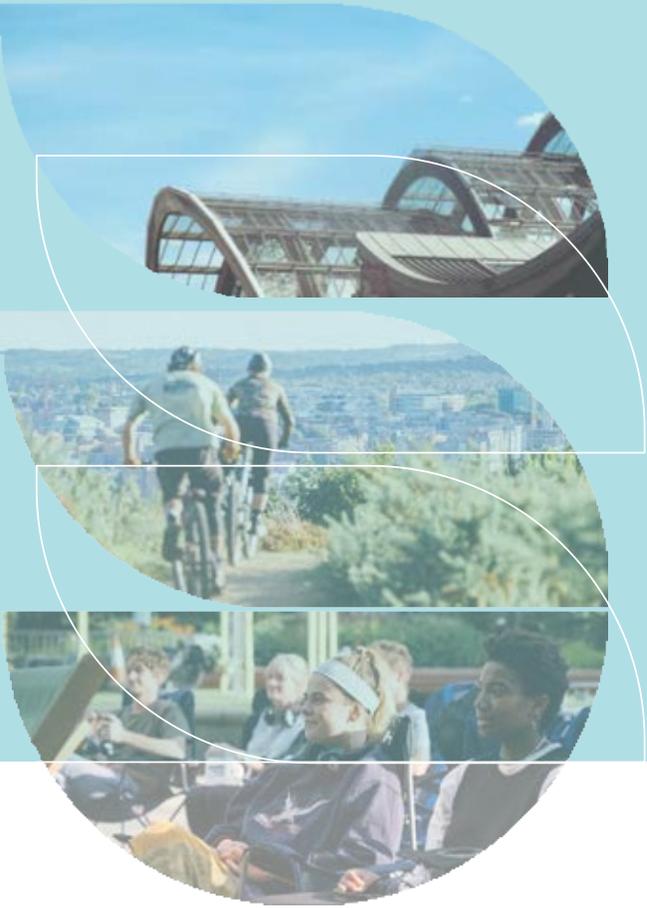
Missing Teams

CSE / CCE Specialists

Investigators

Knowledge and experience of working with external / voluntary organisations

Youth Offending Team



Multi-agency Child Protection Team (MACPT) Education Lead Advisor Role

**John Mansergh – Service Manager
Attendance and Inclusion**



Purpose and Scope of the Role

Strategic Conduit

The role acts strategically to connect education and multi-agency safeguarding without duplicating for existing roles e.g. DSL's etc

Information Sharing & Analysis

Identifies patterns like attendance, exclusions and peer risks to inform child protection and safeguarding efforts.



Embedding Education Needs in plans

Ensures education-related needs are embedded in child protection plans (e.g., linking EHCP content, behaviour plans, CIN/CP goals).

Enhancing System Consistency

Provides expert advice, quality assurance, and communication to improve decision-making across the school system.

Functions and Responsibilities

Strategic Oversight

The role ensures education's meaningful contribution to child protection processes through strategic oversight and quality assurance.

System-wide Communication

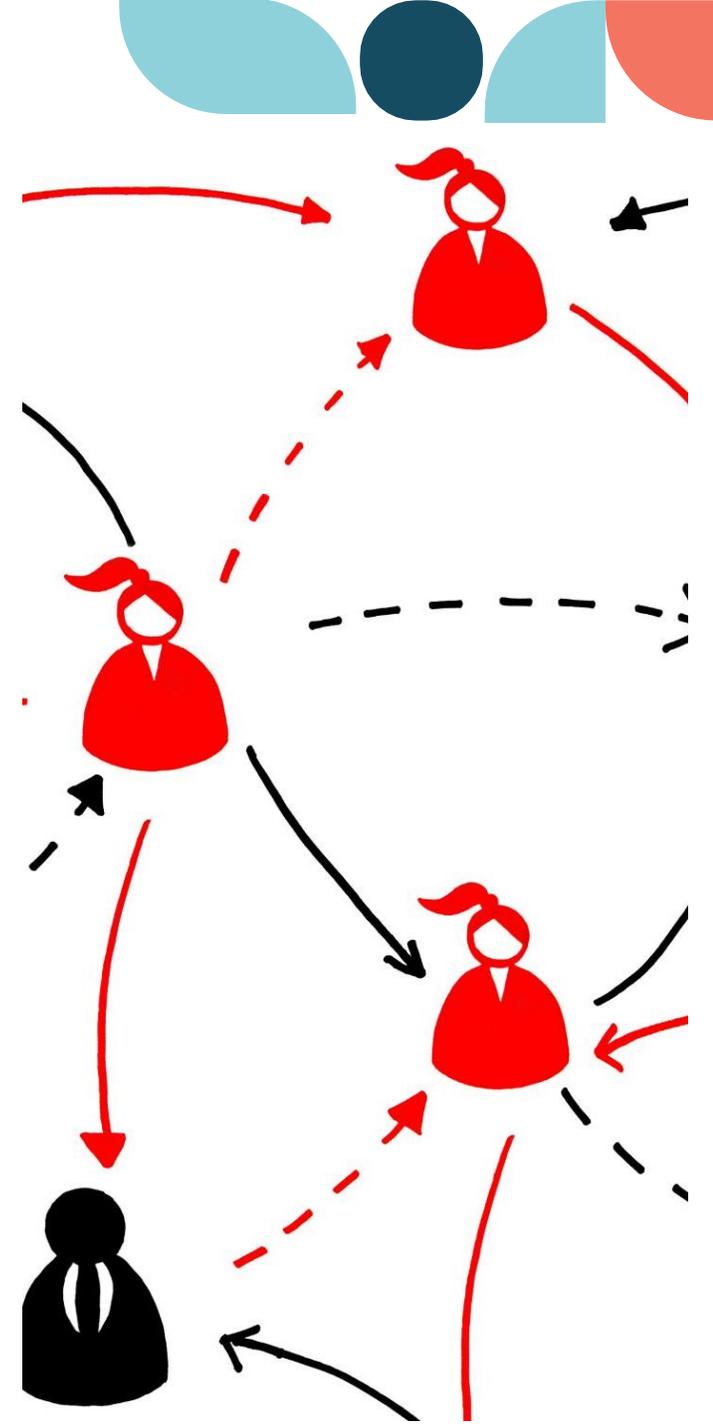
Acts as liaison between schools, social care, police, and health, providing clarity on decisions and next steps.

Risk Assessment and Coordination

Supporting education settings around risk assessing following serious incidents - identifying safeguarding hotspots and emerging risks to enable coordinated citywide responses.

Reducing Communication Breakdowns

Focuses on timely and effective information sharing to prevent past communication failures in safeguarding.



FFP – Education Engagement Event

Understanding Change Rationale

The event will ensure schools understand the reasons behind FFPP and MACPT model changes and their legal drivers.

Clarifying Implementation Impact

It clarifies what will change, what remains, and what schools should expect when the new safeguarding model is operational.

Addressing Concerns and Questions

The event provides reassurance and allows schools to ask questions and address anxieties about the new system.

Building Shared Ownership

It fosters confidence and shared responsibility among schools to support a cohesive multi-agency safeguarding environment.



Early Help Partnership Training

Free, practical training designed to strengthen whole-family working and enhance Early Help skills across all partners.



What we offer



Virtual sessions & Face-to-face sessions



Regular updates of new upcoming training



Citywide delivery



Multi-agency collaboration



Focused and thematic sessions



Evaluations and feedback to share to facilitators

Our aims

- Embed whole-family and whole-household working practices
- Strengthen partnership working across all services
- Support collaborative approaches for better outcomes

Upcoming Training

Here are some new and exciting topics coming to the Early Help Partnership Training offer this spring.

March

Understanding Overweight and Obesity: A Compassionate Approach (AS) with Morelife

Tuesday, 03 March, Online

1:00pm to 1:30pm

Free Activities for Families at Sheffield Museums

Wednesday, 11 March, Online

12:30pm to 1:00pm

An Introduction to South Yorkshire Eating Disorder Association

Tuesday, 24 March, Online

12:30pm to 1:00pm



What's on



Scan the QR code to see what training is available or to book a session

<https://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/EHPT/>

April

Promoting Healthy Start and Healthy Start Vitamins

Wednesday, 15 April, Online
1:00pm to 1:30pm

Violence Against Women and Girls with SYP

Tuesday, 21 April, **IN PERSON** at Moorfoot Building
10:00am to 12:00pm

Drugs Offences with South Yorkshire Police

Monday, 27 April, Online
1:00pm to 1:45pm

An Introduction to BBC CBeebies Parenting

Wednesday, 29 April, Online
12:00pm to 1:00pm

Who are SENDing Voices - Youth Voice & Influence Service

Tuesday, 28 April, Online
10:00am to 11:00am

An Introduction to Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder

Wednesday, 29 April, Online
1:00pm to 1:30pm



What's on

Scan the QR code to see what training is available or to book a session

<https://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/EHPT>



Have some training to offer?

We welcome new partners to contribute to our training offer. If you have a free-of-charge session that helps up-skill the Early Help workforce, focuses on whole-family working, and promotes partnership approaches, please get in touch via email EarlyHelpTraining@sheffield.gov.uk



Ready to get started?

Join our mailing List



Scan the QR code to join our mailing list

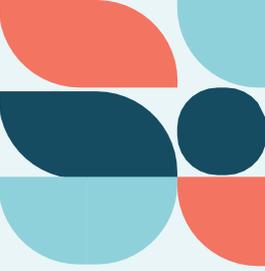
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See what's on



Scan the QR code to see what training is available or to book a session

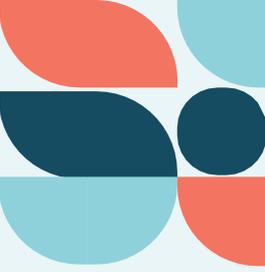
<https://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/EHPT>



Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)

Simon Jones
Team Manager, Family Group
Conferencing Team





Sheffield Family Connect



Embedding Family-Led Practice Across Partnership



Sheffield's Family-Led System Reset

Mobilise Before Escalate

Family Group Decision Making

Family Group Decision-Making (FGDM) is a strengths-based approach that mobilises the wider family network to make informed decisions and develop safe, sustainable plans that keep children safe and supported.

Why this Matters to All of Us

“When a child starts to struggle, what happens next?”

- Police respond to incidents.
- Schools escalate behaviour concerns.
- Health identifies vulnerability.
- Social care receives referrals.

We intervene but often before the wider family network has been mobilised.

That costs time. It fragments effort. And sometimes it escalates need.



The Strategic Question



How do we make family-led problem solving the default response without creating more bureaucracy?

The Sheffield Tiered Model



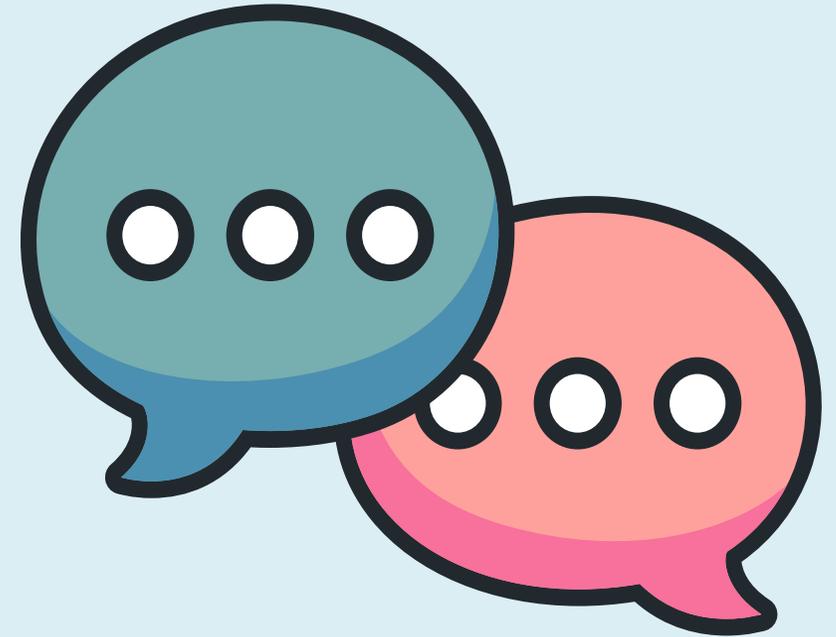
What Tier 1 Means for You

Tier 1 – Sheffield Family Connect Conversation

- ✓ No referral threshold
- ✓ No waiting list
- ✓ No new panel
- ✓ Any partner can initiate

It is a structured, strengths-based conversation asking: Who around this child can help right now?

It strengthens what you already do, it doesn't replace it.



Why this Helps Partners



Education

Engaging extended family improves attendance, behaviour stability and accountability



Police

Mobilising family early reduces repeat callouts and reactive work



Health

Strengthened informal support reduces crisis presentations

This is Not...

- X Not an extra meeting culture**
- X Not shifting safeguarding thresholds**
- X Not replacing statutory processes**

It is a shared early intervention discipline.



Core Principle

Mobilise

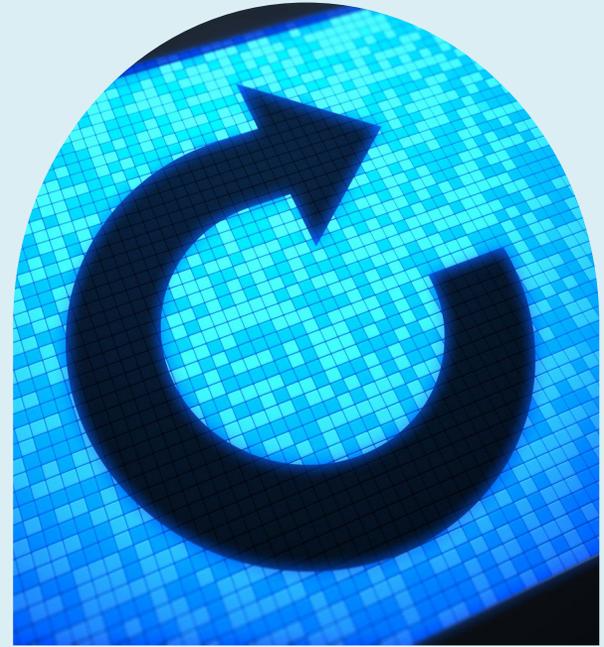


Escalate

Before



System Reset



**This is not a new initiative.
It is a redesign of how we respond together.
If we do this well, escalation becomes proportionate, not
default.**

The Ask

We cannot design Tier 1 centrally.
It has to work in:

- Police workflows
- School pastoral systems
- Health pathways

**So today we co-design how this lands
in your service.**





What Does Tier 1 Look Like in Your World?

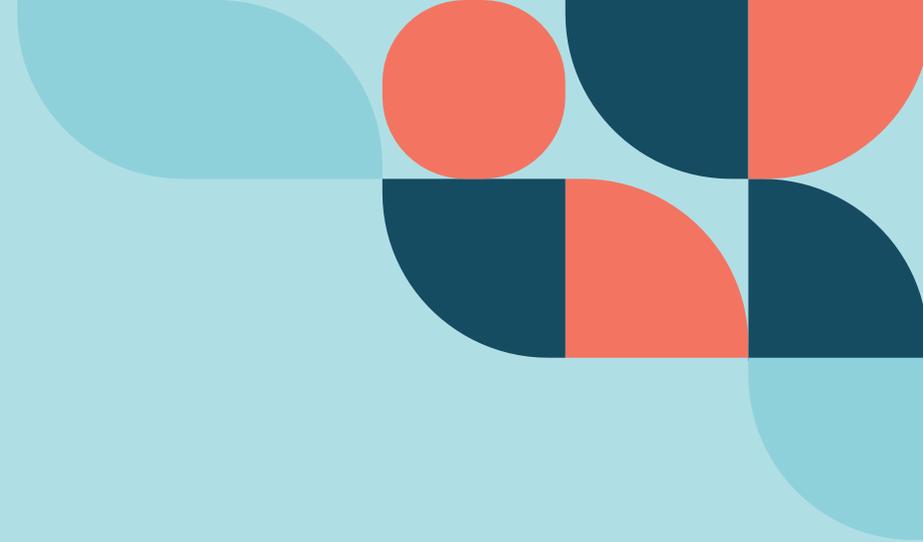
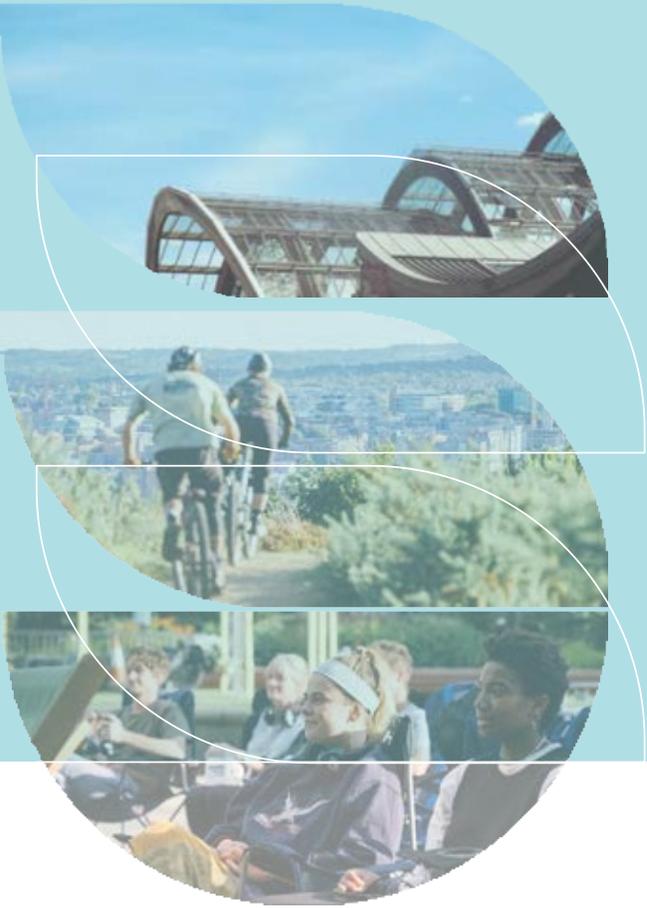


Question One:

In your service, what are the earliest signs that a child is starting to struggle?
(Examples: attendance dips, first police contact, missed appointments, behaviour concerns)

Question Two:

- **At that point could a Family Connect Conversation realistically happen?**
- **Who would lead it?**
- **Are there any barriers we would need to solve for this to happen?**

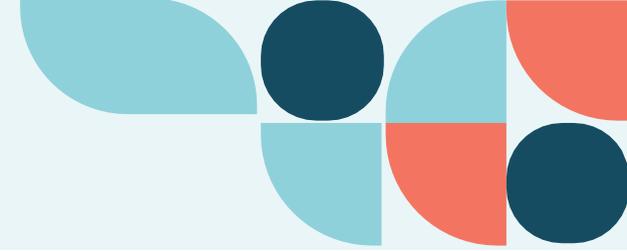


Closing remarks

Sally Williams, Director of Children and Families, SCC



Questions or queries....



Please contact us on familiesfirst@sheffield.gov.uk

Or

Family Help Workstream: louise.bower@sheffield.gov.uk

MACPT Workstream: michelle.kingan@sheffield.gov.uk

FGDM Workstream: simon.jones@sheffield.gov.uk



Feedback

Please take a moment to share your thoughts about today's session.

Scan the QR code to complete the online survey, or use a paper form on your table if you prefer.



<https://forms.office.com/e/ZVZuDx6yuw>