

Message From Head of Children's Social Care in Cambridgeshire



Welcome to Cambridgeshire Children & Young People's Services, the Directorate of Social Services, where social work with children and their families is alive and well!

In Cambridgeshire, we believe that children are best served in their own families, if this can safely be supported. To that end, we have developed a range of interventions to support families caring for their children: a well resourced Family Support Service, a Family Group Meeting Service, Community Child Minding, individual and community support for disabled children and much more. We are an authority leading in the development of Evidence Based Programmes and currently Multi-Systemic Therapy, Multi-Systemic Therapy – Child Abuse and Neglect (a new adaption only available in Cambridgeshire) and Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care have all been established.



Should it not be possible to safely maintain a child within their immediate birth family, we have an extensive range of services for our Looked After Children. We take seriously our responsibilities to Children Looked After – the decision to accommodate is taken by Senior Managers only. Our Kinship Team ensures, where possible, children can remain with their extended family and friendship groups, and alternative legal arrangements for children, eg Residence Orders and Special Guardianship Orders are supported financially to the same level as our foster carers. The Fostering and Adoption Service ensure the provision of a range of high quality carers, we have our own well-regarded residential provision for both mainstream and young people with additional needs and a Children's Placement Team that quality assures and matches placements to needs.

Once accommodated, our children are supported by fully staffed "Virtual School" and dedicated psychology service. Care Leavers are well supported, including being offered the opportunity to stay with their foster carers post 18.

Looked After Children have their own Council and a well-established relationship with senior managers and Councillors – a number of whom actively support our work – they know they have our ear!

In Cambridgeshire, there is a strong commitment to workforce development. We have recently revised our pay scales and developed an accelerated progression scheme that actively rewards improving professional practice and expertise, supported by this year's priority to develop regular opportunities for reflection on practice.

Interested? Read more about opportunities available in Cambridgeshire on our website. <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/jobs/Childrensocialcare.htm>

Elaine Petch, Head of Social Care