

BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Issue #1

WELCOMING YOU TO THE TRUST

Welcome to the First Birmingham Children's Trust Newsletter and a Happy Halloween.

This is the first of what we hope will be a regular publication, to keep city councillors, partners and other interested parties updated with developments in Birmingham Children's Trust.

All about Us

A recap...

Birmingham Children's Trust was established in 2018 to deliver children's social care services on behalf of the City Council. This followed a decade of poor Ofsted inspection outcomes and a decision, by the Council, to create a Trust as the vehicle to raise the quality of services to the city's most vulnerable children, young people and families.

We are a Community Interest Company, wholly owned and commissioned by Birmingham City Council. Our governance is through an independent board, chaired by Andrew Christie, who was the previous DfE-appointed Commissioner. We report regularly to the council on our progress, as well as participating in Overview and Scrutiny, attending Cabinet and council officer meetings.



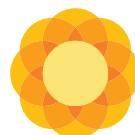
Ofsted's last full inspection of children's social care services was in late 2018. Services were judged to 'Require Improvement'. Currently, our Adoption and our Fostering services are both judged to be 'Good'. We expect a further inspection in 2022.

So the Council owns the Trust and commissions the Trust to deliver services. And, of course we are key partners in delivering and improving services. SEND is an obvious example where we have a shared responsibility, along with the NHS.

The vulnerable children and families we support need good universal services: a school place, a GP, a health visitor etc. When a social worker needs to become involved with a family they join the team already offering support.

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BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST

Our senior leadership team welcome you

Children's Trust Board

Executive management team



Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive



Lee Yale-Helms
Director of Finance and Resources



Jenny Turnross
Director of Practice

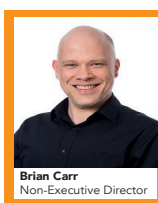


David Stringfellow
Director of Commissioning and Corporate Parenting

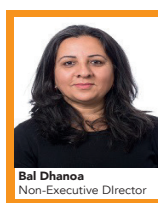
Chair and non-executive directors



Andrew Christie
Chair



Brian Carr
Non-Executive Director



Bal Dhanoa
Non-Executive Director



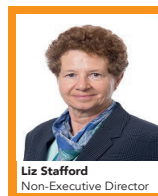
Prof Jon Glasby
Non-Executive Director



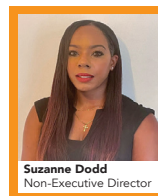
Ruth Harker
Non-Executive Director



Colin Horwath
Non-Executive Director



Liz Stafford
Non-Executive Director



Suzanne Dodd
Non-Executive Director

Company secretary



Seamus Gaynor
Head of Executive



**BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST**

Contact our Executive management team

Andy Couldrick - Chief Executive

andy.couldrick@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

Jenny Turnross - Director of Practice

jenny.turnross@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

Lee Yale-Helms - Director of Finance and Resources

lee.yale-helms@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

David Stringfellow - Director of Commissioning and Corporate Parenting

david.stringfellow@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

What we do

- Early Help in 10 localities
- Family Support



- Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Assessment and Short-term Intervention (ASTI)
- Services for Disabled Children and their Families (including short breaks)



- Safeguarding
- Children in Care
- Leaving Care
- Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children and Young People
- Fostering
- Adoption
- Youth Offending Service
- No Recourse to Public Funds (Families)

We are supporting over
10,000
families across the city on
any given day.

We look after
2,000
children in care



We safeguard
1,300
children with Child
Protection Plans

We manage the
adoptions of
100
children a year

STRONGER FAMILIES

Our Stronger Families Programme



Wherever possible we work to keep children with their families.

Our **Stronger Families Programme** has multiple elements that includes extended hours 'Edge of Care' support, Family Group Conferences, Safer Families and Lifelong Links.

Only when the risk to a child or young person of significant harm is judged too high will we intervene to place a child away from their parents.

Even then we will look to wider family members first to find someone who can be supported to care for the young person.

REMEMBER: Safeguarding children and supporting families is **everyone's responsibility**.

In your work, should you come across a situation that leads you to worry about the safety or welfare of a child, you must contact the Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) in the Trust, on:

Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 5:15pm

Friday: 8:45am to 4:15pm

Telephone: 0121 303 1888

Emergency out-of-hours

Telephone: 0121 675 4806



Corporate Parents: all of us

For the 2,000 children in our care, you, as elected members are all Corporate Parents, as are the officers of Birmingham City Council and of course the Children's Trust.

So what does this mean?

Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Children's Trust, and all our partners in the NHS, the Police, in schools and colleges, and in the business community of Birmingham are working together to give our children in care and care leavers the best opportunities and support.

Your role is to challenge yourselves, each other, and us, to deliver against the pledge, asking the question: **'Would the support we are offering be good enough for my child?'**

The work is overseen by the Corporate Parenting Board, chaired by Councillor Sharon Thompson. Councillor Martin Straker-Wells is the council's Corporate Parenting Champion and advisor.

On the right-hand side of this page you will see our **Corporate Parenting City Pledge**, our promise to our children and young people.

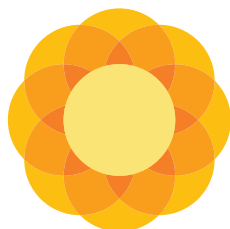


Message from **Andy Couldrick**

I hope this has provided a useful re-introduction into the work of Birmingham Children's Trust.

We will produce regular newsletters to keep you updated on our progress, together, to safeguard and support the city's most vulnerable children, young people and families.

Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive
Birmingham Children's Trust



Corporate Parenting City Pledge

We are committed to making sure that every young person in, and leaving, our care, can say the following:

- I am fully aware of this City Pledge.
- I am settled where I live, and I feel safe and well cared for.
- I enjoy school and I am being supported to fulfil my learning potential.
- I go to college or university or I am in work learning the skills I need for the future.
- I have opportunities to develop my talents, have fun and enjoy my free time.
- I know who I am, where I am from and I am in touch with the people in my life with whom I will have lifelong links, relationships and support: they might be family, or friends.
- I am healthy, I feel good about myself and I get the help and support that I need.
- I have a good and stable relationship with professionals who support me.
- I know what the next year will bring, where I am going to live and who in my life will support me into the future.
- I have someone independent in my life to support me should I wish.
- I am given opportunities to have my say and shape the services I receive.