

## Family Safeguarding: a joint working approach to improve outcomes for children and their parents in Surrey

### What is Family Safeguarding?

The Family Safeguarding model is based on a simple concept to get people who are working with the same family to work in co-located teams and share their concerns and risks to improve outcomes for children and their parents.

Family Safeguarding is a strengths-based model where professionals work with adults in teams supporting children and their families, providing intensive support to parents to address their substance use, mental health, and domestic abuse that place children at risk of significant harm.

### Better outcomes

The Family Safeguarding model has a proven track record of success, and being part of Surrey's Family Safeguarding teams will give professionals the opportunity to transform children and families' lives for the better. In pilot areas, the model has resulted in a 19% reduction in care proceedings and a 10% reduction in Children Looked After. **With your help we will be able to achieve a similar impact on the lives of Surrey's children and families.**

### The Family Safeguarding Team

The service brings together:

- Social workers
- Domestic abuse workers
- Drug & alcohol workers
- Mental Health practitioners
- Psychologists
- Probation officers
- Family support workers

The whole team can address all the issues facing a family together. This means that problems such as a parent's alcohol and/or drug use can be worked with so they can understand the impact of their alcohol and drug use on their children and their parenting. The drug and alcohol workers will work in the community with colleagues providing harm reduction, motivational interviewing, psycho-social interventions and also work with i-access to support parents in getting treatment if required, staying engaged and completing treatment.

### Reduced caseload & less paperwork

**The Family Safeguarding model allows for caseloads to be reduced across the board so that professionals can spend more time working with families.** The model means social workers can focus on doing what social workers are trained to do, without getting bogged down in bureaucracy and paperwork. By having professionals from different disciplines working under one roof, our teams are able to work closely together, minimising the time spent on making referrals to other agencies for support.

## Shared responsibility and professional support

It also means that the responsibility for a family is shared among a team of professionals, reducing the risk placed on any one individual. Instead, social workers, family support workers, domestic abuse practitioners, drug and alcohol workers, mental health practitioners and psychologists all work closely together to support families and keep children safe.

## Career progression

**There are significant opportunities for career progression as the skills developed on our Family Safeguarding teams become increasingly sought after nationally.** The success of the Family Safeguarding model has been recognised by central government, and is set to be rolled-out nationwide in the near future. As an early adopter of the model, Surrey is ahead of the curve and members of our Family Safeguarding teams will be at the leading edge of innovation in the sector.