



PORTSMOUTH FAMILIES FIRST NEWSLETTER

**WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN
SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

Portsmouth Children's Social Care is entering a period of positive change. We're proud of our strong foundation of safe, high-quality practice and we're building on it to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families across our city. This transformation is about working together, listening to families, and making sure our services are the right ones, at the right time.

WHY WERE CHANGING

We're responding to both local challenges and national reforms:

- Locally, we're managing increased demand while ensuring services remain sustainable.
- Nationally, we're aligning with the Social Care Reforms following the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, led by Josh MacAlister (now Minister for Children and Families).

WHAT WERE PROUD OF

We have a strong and secure foundation of good practice to build on. Portsmouth's local authority services are rated highly by Ofsted, and our data and quality assurance processes show that children's social care is safe, effective, and resilient. Safeguarding practice across education, health, and wider services are consistently strong reflecting our shared commitment to keeping children safe and supporting families.





WHAT WERE FOCUSING ON

We're committed to making improvements that reflect the needs and voices of children and families. Our priorities include:

- Helping earlier to keep children safely with their families
- Reducing handovers between services by developing a joined-up 'Family Help' offer
- Co-producing solutions with families putting them at the heart of decisions
- Creating innovative care options for children we care for and care-experienced young people



OUR APPROACH TO CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE REFORMS

The families first partnership programme encourages the creation of multi agency child protection teams (MACPT). In Portsmouth we already have a strong multi agency response to keeping children safe through our integrated front door/ MASH providing clear threshold decisions and timely responses for referrals coming in. In addition, our Family Safeguarding model of practice further supports practice through the allocation of adult practitioners providing support in respect of substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health. We therefore know we have existing strength in this area and will continue to build on and strengthen what we know to be working well for our children and families. We will build on our strengths by deepening trauma-informed, relational practice to drive positive change within our child protection processes

WHATS NEXT

To ensure success we know that keeping our partners informed is important, so we will be updating you with a newsletter every two months. We'll keep you informed and involved ensuring that together, we continue to safeguard and support children and families in Portsmouth.



Thank you for your continued support. Together, we're shaping a safer, more supportive future for every child in our city