



CHILDREN  
& FAMILY  
SUPPORT

# WARWICKSHIRE PARENTING APPROACH

2021 - 2024



Warwickshire  
County Council

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Parents and carers want the best for their children but being a parent can be challenging and everyone needs support from time to time. In Warwickshire, we want parents and caregivers to be more confident in their role and to be able to give their children the best possible start in life, supporting them to be happy, healthy, safe and successful as they grow up.

More confident parents are those who:

- Provide love and care to their children and help them feel safe and secure
- Keep their children safe from harm by providing a safe and harmonious environment in which their children can feel loved and will flourish
- Look after their children's physical, mental and emotional needs
- Support their children in their development and education
- Ensure their children's health needs are met, including any specific special needs
- Help their children to develop socially
- Are not afraid to ask for help
- Support their children's growth towards independence
- Encourage their children to grow up with respect for others' values, beliefs, and background

An evidence review commissioned by Public Health England in 2014 and written by the Institute of Health Equity on "Good quality parenting programmes and the home to school transition" <sup>1</sup> found:

- There is evidence that a range of parenting programmes designed for families with children of a particular age are effective.
- Parenting interventions could reduce inequalities in health across the social gradient if they result in better living conditions for families, higher maternal wellbeing, good parenting actions, or improved outcomes for children.
- To reduce health inequalities, commissioning of parenting programmes should be part of a wider local system of measures to support parents

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[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/355764/Review1\\_Early\\_intervention\\_health\\_inequalities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/355764/Review1_Early_intervention_health_inequalities.pdf)

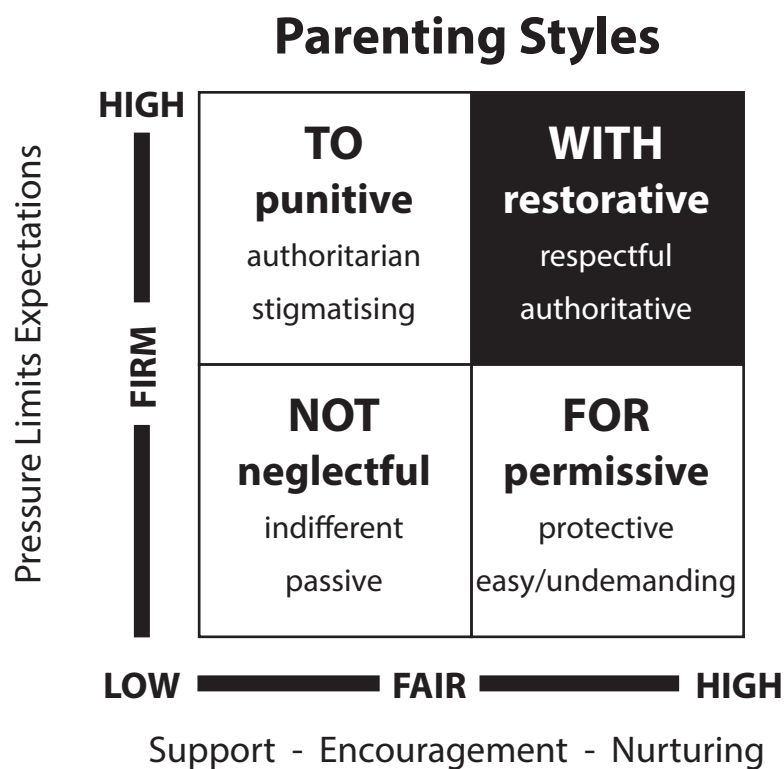
# 2 Restorative Practice

Restorative Practice is the theory of change that has been adopted by Warwickshire's Children and Families Service. The purpose is to build empathy, authenticity and the development of meaningful relationships, all of which echoes with the nurture and attachment children need from their caregivers. Warwickshire have chosen to use this change model as it is proven to have created demonstrable and sustained change in families lives.

Our goal is better relationships and sustainable change for the families we work with. Words really matter, and through careful use of language it is possible to find common ground with anyone, anywhere, at any time, both personally and professionally.

The restorative model can be applied to a lot of different situations, including parenting. The model is based upon high support and high challenge, which in parenting it can be applied as high care and high nurturing, this is the approach we advocate with parents in Warwickshire.

More information about Warwickshire's Restorative Practice approach is available [here](#).



Adapted from *Social Discipline Window* - Paul McCold & Ted Wachtel - 2000

# Warwickshire's 10-point Parenting Vision **3**

To support parents to feel confident in parenting, we want to deliver the best Parenting Information, Advice, Guidance and Support we can. We have an ambition to work in partnership with health partners, education and learning colleagues and the community and voluntary sector to achieve the following 10-point vision:

## What do we want for Parent and Caregivers in Warwickshire?

<b>1</b>	We want children to achieve their potential in a nurturing and safe family environment
<b>2</b>	We want parents and carers to feel confident in their parenting and nurturing skills and feel confident to seek out the support they need easily
<b>3</b>	We want families to be part of a wider, caring community with opportunities to engage in activities meaningful to them
<b>4</b>	We want children who are resilient and have improved life chances with increased wellbeing, and free from the impact of child poverty and holiday hunger

## How will we do it?

<b>5</b>	We will support the parents and carers to access the information to support their parenting at the right time
<b>6</b>	We will work with Family Support Workers, our health colleagues (such as health visiting and school nursing) and pastoral leads working in the education, community, and voluntary sector to create a community of learning so that we can share skills and increase confidence among workers
<b>7</b>	We will use evidence and data to drive the delivery of parenting support to meet the needs of local communities
<b>8</b>	We will help Family Support Workers develop best practice to deliver the best service for families
<b>9</b>	We will use relational parenting techniques and programmes, which are supported by partners and underpinned by WCC Theory of change which is Restorative Practice.
<b>10</b>	We will deliver a flexible, stepped approach to Parenting and Family support, including the use of digital delivery

# 4 Hearing the voices of Parents

## What have parents told us?

Through a range of local and national research, we have developed an understanding of the needs of parents and carers in Warwickshire.

Schools are education professionals and are not trained in every parenting and family support area. We want support that is independent from schools

Flexible delivery of support – text, email, face to face and digital

Local support groups for typical issues e.g. perinatal mental health, autism and support to help parents set up their own support groups if desired.

Online chat or text service for when I'm on the move

A monthly newsletter/ email detailing what courses, drop ins are available

Navigator function, so I know where to get help from

Parenting workshops that are specific enough to cover the needs of the children and families and provide tangible help



# Supporting Parents with different level of needs 5

The stepped approach to services has been designed to enable parents to access the right support at the right time to meet their needs. With family feedback in mind, support can be accessed rapidly and easily in a way helpful to families. We provide a wide range of support directly through our own family support services, and through our commissioned services, such as Health Visiting, School Health, Children & Family Centres and Rise.



## The Family Support Line: 01926 412 412

A locality run phone line that enables parents and professionals to access help, support and guidance the same day. Family Support Workers will call families back if needed and can also support the families in whatever way communication is better for them- Phone call, Email, Text, Messenger or Videocall

<p><b>Family Information Service (FIS)</b> An information hub relating to any information, advice and signposting.</p> <p>FIS newsletter (including special editions) <b>Web pages and helpline</b></p> <p><b>Solihull Approach Online Courses accessed via FIS for families living in Warwickshire:</b></p> <p>A wide range of online learning programmes that help parents, carers and professionals to understand more about child development, from pregnancy to Teenage years, Attachment, trauma and Special Educational Needs. The programmes are free and accessible to parents and professionals living in Warwickshire.</p> <p><b>ACES – Adverse Childhood Experiences</b> A short online course top explaining Adverse Children experiences and the impact of them on children and to adulthood</p> <p>Use of Children and Family Centres, early years support and play and stays</p> <p><b>Antenatal and Postnatal care from Midwives, Health Visitors and School Nurses</b></p>	<p><b>Family Support Worker Drop- ins</b> Drop-in sessions located in Children and Family Centres and community venues (non-pandemic times) to enable families to walk in and have a face to face conversation with a Family Support Worker. Coordinated in some areas with partner agencies</p> <p><b>2-hour short courses:</b> Short courses of essential information to help parents in a variety of subjects. Parents can access virtually and interact with other parents, or can simply listen to the advice and guidance given by our experienced Parent Trainers</p> <p><b>More in depth Parenting Programmes</b> Longer, more in-depth knowledge to build upon the short courses. Delivery is typically for up to 8 weeks. In groups or on a 121.</p> <p><b>Allocated Family SW for short pieces of single agency work</b></p>	<p><b>Targeted Training</b> For community groups and schools in parenting approaches</p> <p><b>Allocated Family Support Worker:</b> Can support with Early Help Pathway to Support plans for longer pieces of more intensive pieces of work</p> <p><b>Specialist support drop ins for specific areas:</b> Collaborations with RISE and the Children with Disability Team have enabled specialist parent consultations for parents of children with a disability or an Emotional wellbeing or mental health concern</p> <p><b>Specialist Parenting programmes</b> Parenting Programmes to support families with a targeted focus, ranging from Autism (2021/22) to Reducing parental Conflict</p>	<p><b>Children with Disabilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Workers and Family Support Workers</li> </ul> <p><b>Safeguarding and Support Teams:</b> <b>Strengthening Families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Workers and Family Support Workers</li> </ul> <p><b>Prevention and Intervention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Support Workers and Social Workers</li> <li>• Edge of care support</li> </ul> <p><b>Family Time</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sessional Family Support Workers</li> </ul> <p><b>Systemic Family Therapist support</b> <b>Corporate Parenting Team:</b> <b>Foster care support Team</b></p> <p><b>Special Guardianship Orders Support</b> Specialist help support in WCC is accessed when a family has an allocated social worker through children's social care</p> <p><b>Family Nurse Partnership</b></p>
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## Developments across Early Help

The new Early Help Family Support Service has expanded to incorporate a wider age range. Parenting support is now available for children and young people aged 0 – 19 years, and up to 24 years for those with SEND. Further expansions, in line with the stepped approach include:

### The Family Support Line

A telephone helpline is available Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm. Experienced Family Support Workers from each locality deliver immediate information, advice and guidance to parents and practitioners within their own locality. This adds value to the intervention as FSWs can connect families to known local resources. Family Support Workers will communicate with families in the most accessible and agreeable way for them, via phone, text, email, messenger or facetime.

### Drops-ins:

(no appointment necessary): Delivered in a range of community venues (approx. 2 drops ins were delivered in each locality every week) in addition to the Children & Family Centres, these short consultations can build upon the support offered in the Telephone consultations. During the COVID 19, support has been delivered via the Family Support Line.

### Parenting Courses:

The repertoire of group parenting support has also significantly expanded. Parents and Carers can now access short courses that provide essential information and compliment the more in-depth parenting programmes. The inclusion of relational and attachment focused parenting programmes are now being delivered, for example, The Solihull Approach. This is a welcome addition as it focuses on behaviour management, containment and reciprocity and is in alignment with Health Visiting and School Nursing as it is their and our favoured programme

- **Solihull Approach Programme:** A foundation parenting programme that emphasises the value of containment, reciprocity and behaviour management (0 – 18 years) when supporting parents with the behaviour of their children. Feedback from Warwickshire residents on the 3 main courses is very positive:
  - o Understanding pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby
    - 98% of course completers found the course helpful
    - 96% of course completers recommend the course to others
  - o Understanding your baby
    - 96% of course completers found the course helpful
    - 98% of course completers recommend the course to others
  - o Understanding your child
    - 98% of course completers found the course helpful
    - 95% of course completers recommend the course to others



- **Sleep Tight and Sleep Better:** All aged programme to support practitioners help parent and carers to understand sleep cycles, common sleep issues and strategies to manage these, establishing appropriate routines, keeping sleep diaries and interpreting the data and environments. Sleep Better is a programme targeted at children with ASD.
- **Nurture Programme-Family Links:** The Nurture Programme helps parents of children 0-12years. Based on research into family interactions where destructive parental behaviour patterns were identified as problematic. The programme helps families get the best out of family life by focussing on Self-awareness, Appropriate Expectations, Empathy and Positive discipline.
- **Malachi-Inspiring Futures Programme.** This programme is aimed at children and young people of all ages. It supports children and young people's wellbeing and behaviour by supporting their parents and carers think and act differently about attachment, communication, relationship dynamics and much more.
- **The Incredible Years:** Programme based upon child development theory that helps parents and carers strengthen parent child/ interaction relationship and attachment. Supportive of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and is the Early Help intervention endorsed by RISE to support the relationships for reduction of Child to Parent Violence (6-12years)
- **Heart to Heart:** A programme that all Early Help Family Support Workers have been trained in. It empowers practitioners with the latest attachment theory about attachment security and operationalises it with a Parent/Adolescent relationship (10 – 15 years) to develop stronger attachment and security through practical application.
- **Parenting Apart:** Early Help are entering a pilot with Parenting Apart as a programme that supports parents (of children of all ages) deal with parental conflict. The programme is a mixture of family support and mediation to move parents past intensive and ongoing conflict and to hold the experience of their child in mind.

Parent Trainers will deliver group parenting programmes to parents and practitioners

Within the new strategic approach to Early Help is increased focus on our partnership working with early years settings, schools and colleges within each locality. There is increased collaboration between Children and Families and Education Services, has enabled new approaches to be implemented including regular strategic and local operational meeting with Headteachers (Heads Forums) and Designated Safeguarding Leads Networks from Easter 2021 onwards. These relationships have led to new exciting opportunities.

**Specific courses** are available for Newly Qualified Teachers, Recently Qualified Teachers and Newly Qualified Social Workers, in relation to Managing Children's Behaviour and The Importance of Routines and Boundaries, based upon Solihull approach principles.

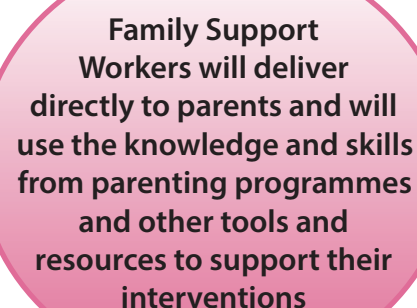
**Parent Trainers:** As part of the expansion of Early Help there have been 6 fixed term roles allocated for Parent Trainers. These specialist roles will be based in pairs across the county (2 workers in the North, 2 workers in the East and 2 in the South) and they will take responsibility for the delivery of a varied and scheduled programme of parenting training.

The primary focus will be the delivery of courses for parents and carers to attend when they need them but will also include CPD to schools and community groups. The intention of delivering basic knowledge to schools and community groups will be to increase the capacity, capability and confidence of members to provide guidance and help parents to self-support and help one another.

**One to One support for families:** – Early Help Family

Support Workers can now be accessed for direct one to one work through a “FSW Intervention” in two ways:

Where the needs are specifically parenting related, families can access support via a direct referral, without the need for an Early Help multi-agency assessment. This is enabling services such as health and schools to act early and refer into the service to support a family’s situation and prevent escalation.



**Family Support Workers will deliver directly to parents and will use the knowledge and skills from parenting programmes and other tools and resources to support their interventions**

Where the situation is more complex and multi-agency work is required,

Family Support Workers can be accessed once an Early Help Pathway has been initiated.

The Family Support Workers will work alongside the other multi agency professionals to support the family plan, or, where appropriate, will also act the Lead Professional to coordinate the intervention.

Early Help Social Worker posts as a pilot for one year. This crucial element will expand the skill set and will provide direct consultation to practitioners in the network in relation to Early Help level Children and Families, focusing on Targeted Help level (Orange Level).

In addition, there may be occasions where they will deliver appropriate direct interventions with families to prevent escalation to children’s social care. If a family’s situation is escalating, the social worker will be instrumental in supporting the development of a new process that will see the direct allocation for assessment in Initial Response rather than the case having to be assessed by the Integrated Front Door (IFD) – previously known as the MASH.

The 2018 World Health Organisation report: Nurturing care for early childhood development identifies that:

**“the period from pregnancy to age 3 is the most critical, when the brain grows faster than at any other time; 80% of a baby’s brain is formed by this age. This is a window of opportunity to lay a foundation of health and wellbeing whose benefits last a lifetime and carry into the next generation.”**

This transition to parenthood and the first 1001 days from conception to age 2 is widely recognised as a crucial period in the life course of a developing child. There is a significant body of evidence that demonstrates the importance of sensitive, attuned parenting on the development of the baby’s brain and in promoting secure attachment and the foundations for early language. Intervening early to support attachment and positive parenting will have an impact on the resilience and physical, mental and socio-economic outcomes of an individual in later life.



### **Child Inequalities**

Infant mortality is strongly linked to poverty and material deprivation. National statistics in the UK reveal a five-fold difference in the infant mortality rates between the lowest and highest socioeconomic groups. The Marmot review of health inequalities concluded that one-quarter of all deaths under the age of one year, would potentially be avoided if all births had the same level of risk as for women with the lowest level of deprivation.

### **Accidents and injuries**


The commonest cause of death in children aged 5-9 in the UK and a major area of socioeconomic inequality. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to experience unintentional injury. Road traffic accidents are the main cause of death in this age-group and are strongly related to socioeconomic status.

# 7 Priority Groups

As part of our strategy, we are aware that there are some groups of parents who may need a bit more help.

## Young Parents


Getting support right at the right time for teenage mothers and fathers<sup>3</sup> can help to transform their lives and that of their children. This can enable them to fulfil their own aspirations and potential and be mindful to support and encourage the same for their children. For some teenage parents, having their children young can present them with extra challenges. Supporting young parents, especially those who are care experienced, is integral to Early Help and support can be key to ensuring the child has the best start in life. [Public Health England]




Public Health England

## Outcomes for young parents and their children (1)


Child health




Teenage mothers are 2x as likely to smoke before and during pregnancy and 3x more likely to smoke throughout pregnancy




Teenage mothers are a third less likely to start breastfeeding and half as likely to be breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks



- Babies of teenage mothers have a 30% higher rate of stillbirth
- Babies of teenage mothers have a 60% higher rate of infant mortality
- Babies of teenage mothers are 1.9 times more likely to die from Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy



- Children of teenage mothers are twice as likely to be hospitalised for gastro-enteritis or accidental injury
- Babies of teenage mothers have a 30% higher rate of low birthweight.



At age 5, children of teenage mothers are 4 months behind on spatial ability, 7 months behind on non-verbal ability and 11 months behind on verbal ability

## Families Affected by Offending Behaviour

Families that have children involved in offending behaviour or have been victims of crime can be significantly affected. As part of Warwickshire's Think Family approach, it is important that parents are offered the opportunity to access support to understand how offending behaviour or issues relating to contextual safeguarding can impact upon them and their ability to parent their children and young people. Opportunities are being explored to connect Youth Justice and Early Help (Family Support) to interconnect and develop joint structures to support parents with their parenting skills and knowledge.

## **Domestic Abuse**

Families that have experienced domestic abuse will have the opportunity to access parenting support also. Caring Dads is a service that can offer group work to male perpetrators of abuse to help them understand the impact of the abuse of their family lives, and especially on their children.

## **Fathers and Male Carers**

As part of Warwickshire's Think Family approach, we recognise the important of engaging fathers as important part of reaching positive outcomes for children and young people. Engaging fathers effectively has potential benefits for the whole family through promoting children's mental health and development, building on fathers' capacity to support mothers mental and physical wellbeing, as well as promoting father's wellbeing directly.

## **Families Supporting Children with disabilities**

A family with a child or children with Special Education Needs or Disabilities can find that their situation presents unique challenges to them, and to how they are able to parent their child. The Early Help Family Support Service can support the families of children with disabilities. For more specialist support, the Children with Disabilities Team is a frontline children's team with a specialist in disability/additional needs. The team offers a social work service for children and young people, 0 - 18 years, with complex additional needs, their siblings, and parent/carers if they meet the service criteria. They deliver services to enhance the life experiences and improve outcomes for children and young people with a disability. The team focuses on the strengths/abilities of children and their families to enable children and their family members to achieve the aspirations and their identified outcomes, meet their full potential, and maximise their independence. The team includes Specialist Disability Family Support to provide support to children and their families where there are identified support/parenting needs within a family related to the child's disability.

## **Prevention and Intervention Team**

The aim of the team is to support vulnerable families who have a child or young person who is looked after by the Local Authority, with a plan to rehabilitate them home in a safe and secure way. It will also provide support for children or young people who are deemed to be on the Edge of Care, to remain safely in the home.

Solution Focused Brief Therapy is the key approach used as a basis of the intervention.

This is a strengths-based approach that emphasises positive attributes and behaviours, and how these can be applied to overcome difficulties and person-centred, that aims to encourage the families to focus and do more of what works well for them.

The approach is not about minimising real difficulties the family may have or are experiencing, or about changing any aspect of good assessment practice, it is to identify and focus on coping strategies in line with their personal resources and build on these for further development.

Use of language is key and encourages a move from pathology of the problem towards possibilities for change. The families are recognised as the expert of their past and current experiences, and it is that expertise that is utilised to identify goals for change.

From this, the worker takes a role to facilitate in the process of change, rather than be seen as the expert and see themselves as the conduit between the family and their ability to achieve their goals. The use of this approach will be a key element for families to make positive change sustainable for the future. A child centred approach will be at the heart of the intervention and the child's views will always be paramount.

The team also deliver evidenced based parenting programmes to enhance the support. Non-Violence Resistance is often delivered to support parents as a therapeutic approach to parenting.

### **The Systemic Practice Team**

Family and Systemic Psychotherapy is one of the major evidence-based therapeutic approaches across child-adult services provided within the NHS, statutory services, social care and independent and private services.

**In the Children and Families service, there is a small Systemic Practice Team who work to three priorities:**

1. Preventing the need for accommodation of children by the Local Authority where it is possible and safe to do so
2. Rehabilitation of Children home to their families where it is possible and safe to do so
3. Upskilling the workforce in the use of systemically informed Social Work Practice and linking this to our restorative theory of change

This is achieved by offering consultations which is a space for workers to reflect about a family they are working with using a systemic practice lens. Consultations can include unpicking a specific dilemma, sequencing the stages of an intervention, deconstructing specialist assessments, thinking about alternative methods of engagement and support for families, prevention of drift in interventions, rehabilitation or prevention of accommodation.

'Reflective Space' is a monthly session for workers in Safeguarding and Support exploring themes that emerge from the Social Work role using systemic, attachment, trauma and social work theories as well as considering self and collective care for our colleagues.

Systemic Practitioners also offer direct work for families, primarily as part of the Edge of Care Services, but are flexible and focus on meeting the needs of families. All referrals start with a consultation, the Systemic Practice Team also leads on the training, practice and supervision of Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) across the Children and Family Support Service.

## The Parenting Practitioner Team

The Parenting Practitioner Team is a countywide team consisting of social workers and family support workers. The team complete a range of Parenting Assessments, including the use of the PAMS manual for parents/carers who have additional needs, and offer practical parenting solutions to families in need of extra support.

A Parenting Assessment is a detailed assessment which is designed to identify the strengths and vulnerabilities of parents and any potential risks to the child. The role of the parenting assessor is to make recommendations which will contribute to the allocated social workers decision making in respect of the child/ren's future care planning. Pre-birth Assessments are also undertaken of parents who have had previous children removed from their care to assist in good decision making for the baby.

The team has an experienced group of family support workers trained to deliver a variety of parenting programmes. The aim is to work with families for up to 12 weeks in a planned way, finding creative ways in which to elicit change so that children can experience positive and healthy attachments. Programmes of work include:

- Solution Focused Brief Therapy
- PACE
- NVR
- Family Links – The Nurturing Programme
- Malachi – Inspiring Futures
- Solihull Approach

The ethos of the Parenting Practitioner Team is to build relationships with families and work collaboratively to increase the likelihood of positive outcomes.

## Supporting families with denial of non-accidental injuries

- Systemic Theory and Practice supports the dynamic and responsive interventions required to support the rehabilitation of children home to their parents where there has been a denied non-accidental injury. This is done on the premise that families can commit to the prevention of a child being at risk of harm moving forward, even if they do not accept responsibility for the injury directly.
- The Systemic Practice Team primarily utilises the 'Safe Uncertainty' framework (Mason, 1993) for this area of dynamic risk assessment and intervention. The Systemic Practice Team works directly with the family and professional network to explore the risk, concerns and methods of support.
- The Systemic Practice Team may also draw on the literature pertaining to the Resolutions Approach to support this work.  
(Hiles and Luger, 2006)





## Children not living with their birth families

If a child or young person can't live with their birth family and needs to be in Local Authority care, the child's social worker will explore whether the child or young person could be placed within their extended family or with someone well known to them.

The Connected Person's team work closely with the child's social worker and fully assess if a child can live with their extended family or friends. Children can be placed in an emergency or in a planned way, some children's cases may be in the court arena and this will determine the timescales for assessment completion. The child/fostering social worker and family support worker will help families understand the process and will offer support, guidance and advice. Different care options are considered throughout the assessment for example whether a special guardianship order is more appropriate. Some Connected Person foster carers are approved at fostering panel and the National Minimum Fostering Standards apply. Approved Connected Person foster carers will be allocated a fostering social worker who will offer regular supervision, access to training and specific support from family support workers such as parenting advice.

## Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is one made privately for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative. The child will stay with their carers with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. Private foster carers may be from the extended family, such as a cousin or great aunt, a friend of the family, the parent of a friend of the child, or someone previously unknown to the child's family who is willing to privately foster a child.

Support offered to a Private Foster Carers will be via a Child and Family Statutory Assessment which is completed by the private fostering social worker or by/ with children's social worker. This assessment and subsequent visits will help to understand what support, guidance and advice the private foster carer(s) will need to care and support the child. Private foster carers can also access foster carer training.





## **Special Guardianship Order Carers**

A Special Guardianship Order (SGO) provides legal security and a legal status for children and young people who cannot be cared for by their birth parents. It provides long term security for the child/ young person without absolute severance from the birth family, as in adoption.

It lasts until the young person is 18 years and the young person is eligible for 'advice and support' from the Local Authority after their 18th Birthday.

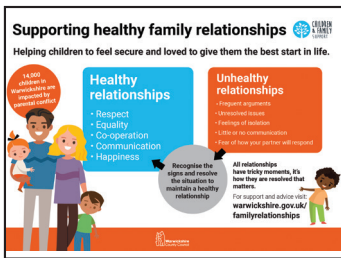
### **Families can access SGO support in 2 ways:**

1. Where the child was previously Looked After by Warwickshire County Council before the SGO was granted,
2. When the three-year period from the making of the SGO has expired, the Local Authority where the Special Guardian lives is responsible for providing support services.  
The SGO Support Team can provide information and guidance to help special guardians in their role. This includes training; social groups; behaviour management and parenting support techniques; access to the support fund; newsletters; helpline and local service knowledge such as signposting.

All special guardians have a support plan which lasts for at least three months after an order is granted. Support plans include help for the children placed, their carer and family and the child's birth family. The plans are based around the needs of those involved but typically include details regarding health, education, emotions, identity, finance and housing. The SGO team will be involved in developing the support plan and reviewing it.

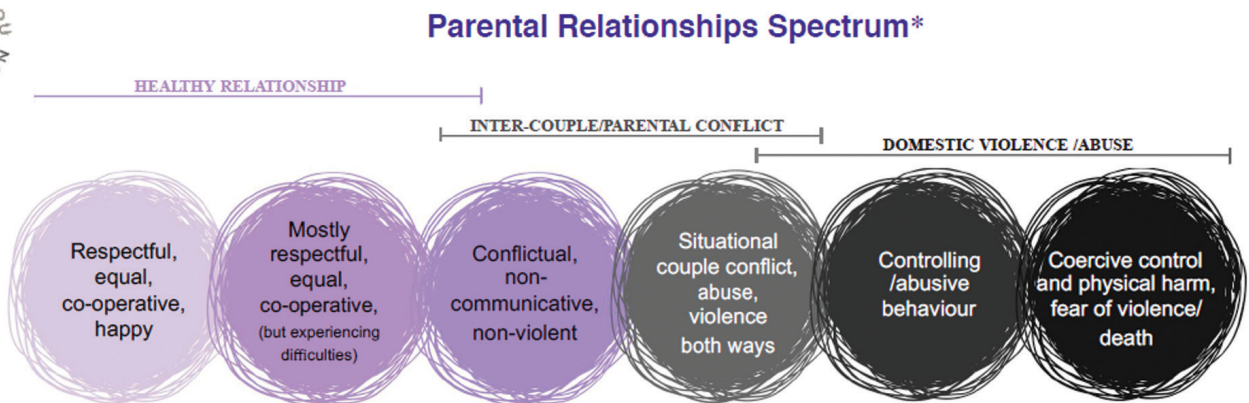
# 8 Reducing Parental Conflict

All Parents have arguments and fall out from time to time and this is normal in relationships. Children will see how to manage and deal with conflict from how their parents' model this between them and others around them.



Parental Conflict is characterised by conflict between parents/carers that is frequent, does not resolve the issues or arguments and can be ongoing and enduring. It not only describes shouting and verbal arguments, but also non communicative “silent treatment” which all creates a toxic atmosphere for children to be in.

The Stefanou Foundation describes Parental Conflict as part of a continuum, sitting between healthy relationships and Domestic Abuse. Warwickshire county council understand the challenges of Parental Conflict and have strategically aligned partners to support children by raising awareness of this agenda and helping parents learn how to resolve conflict positively. A short animation describing the impact on children can be [VIEWED HERE](#).



The Family Information Service webpages hold more information about why relationships matter, separation and co-parenting and links to support for legal matters, in addition to:

- Relationship Support for Parents
- Mediation services

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/family-relationships/1](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/family-relationships/1)

# 5 Key Areas of Focus **9**



<b>1</b>	Strengthen availability and accessibility of inclusive information and advice to parents/carers
<b>2</b>	Utilise technology to strengthen the parenting delivery offer
<b>3</b>	Maximise the quality and effectiveness of the parenting offer, developing a confident and competent workforce
<b>4</b>	Build parenting capacity, in partnership with local communities, in areas where gaps have been identified
<b>5</b>	Ensure the parenting offer is delivered in a way which progressively provides more support across the social gradient and level of need (which includes special educational needs and disabilities), with a clear focus on Early Help and prevention.

# 10 How will we monitor progress?

It is important to recognise the critical factors that must all be in place in order to achieve good outcomes for families in Warwickshire:

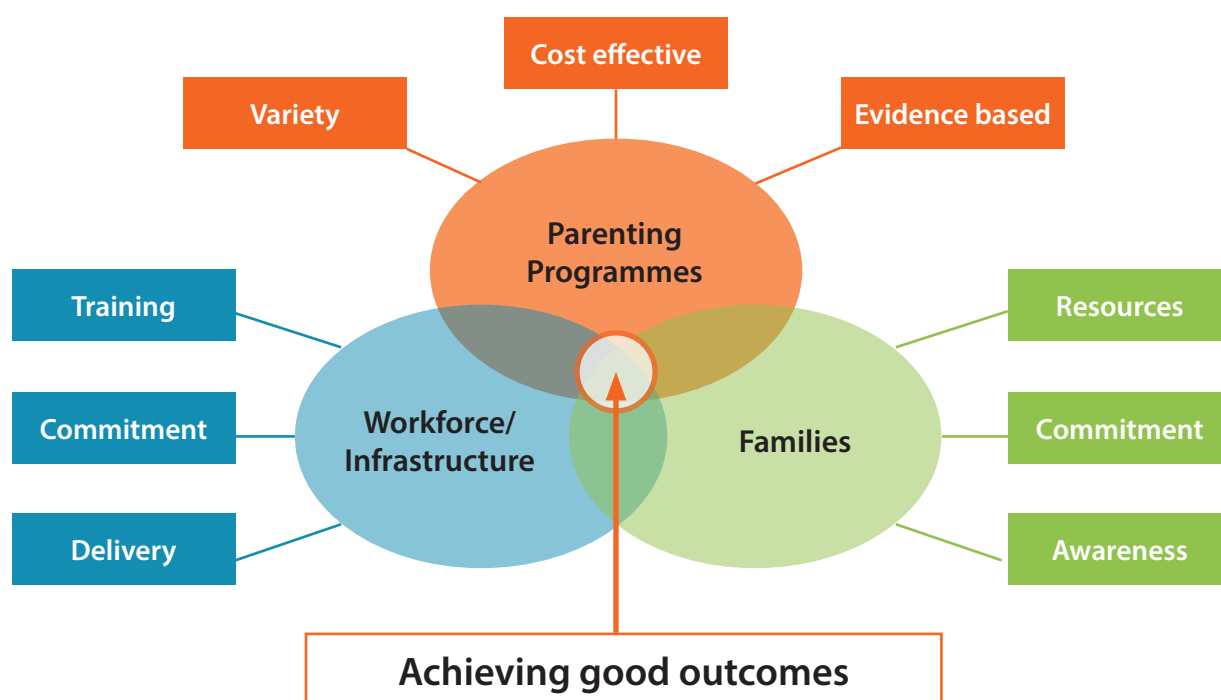
The Parenting Delivery Plan is a key driver in supporting the delivery of Warwickshire County Council's

- **Early Help Strategy (2018 – 2023)**
- **The Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy (2020 – 2025)**

## The Implementation of the strategy

The strategy will be overseen, and the implementation supported by the following boards:

- Multi agency partners who are strategic members of the Locality Early Action Partnerships (LEAPS Meetings) who oversee the wider issues in each locality.
- Operational Locality Advisory Boards. Multi agency group that provides an operational level overview of each locality and can provide detailed and local analysis of need.



## How will we know our impact?

<b>In line with our Early Help Strategy, we want parents to be able to say:</b>	
<b>1</b>	I can find the information I need about parenting and family support easily
<b>2</b>	I feel listened to and respected by professionals I talk to
<b>3</b>	I feel more confident as a parent/carer now that I have received advice or help
<b>4</b>	I would recommend the support and advice I have received to others

<b>Professionals will be able to say:</b>	
<b>1</b>	I understand and have confidence in the parenting offer in Warwickshire
<b>2</b>	I understand my role within my service in the delivery and quality assurance of the parenting offer
<b>3</b>	I feel confident to deliver or signpost to parenting support to families
<b>4</b>	I know and support the local assets and communities available to provide support to families

<b>The longer-term impact of our delivery plan should demonstrate:</b>	
<b>1</b>	A reduction in children entering the children's social care system as needs have been identified early and escalation has been prevented
<b>2</b>	Common Language in relation to parenting support across Education, Health and Social Care Partners
<b>3</b>	Improved health and wellbeing outcomes for all children
<b>4</b>	Fewer families require intensive parenting support
<b>5</b>	Increased confidence schools in the Early Help System
<b>6</b>	Increased involvement, confidence and knowledge in from the voluntary and community sector
<b>7</b>	Increased confidence from parents to access community support and self help

# 11 Glossary

**For the purposes of this strategy, we have used the following definitions:**

**Early Help:**

is about providing the right support for the family at the right time and intervening at the earliest opportunity so that a child, young persons or family's needs do not escalate and become complicated. Early Help can support families up to the point of formalised intervention.

**Parent:**

is used throughout the strategy, to include anyone with parental responsibility for a child or young person. It is used to refer to all carers of children and young people, including expectant parents, foster-carers, grandparents and anyone else acting in a parenting role.

**Family support:**

Family Support Workers are required to holistically respond to the needs of children, young people and their families and "Think Family". They will work with the family on their identified needs and will take responsibility for delivering a plan of direct support themselves, or will signpost on to other agencies, ensuring that work is followed through and needs are addressed. They will act as Lead Professional on no more than 2 cases in Early Help.





CHILDREN  
& FAMILY  
SUPPORT