

# Early Help & Youth Diversion

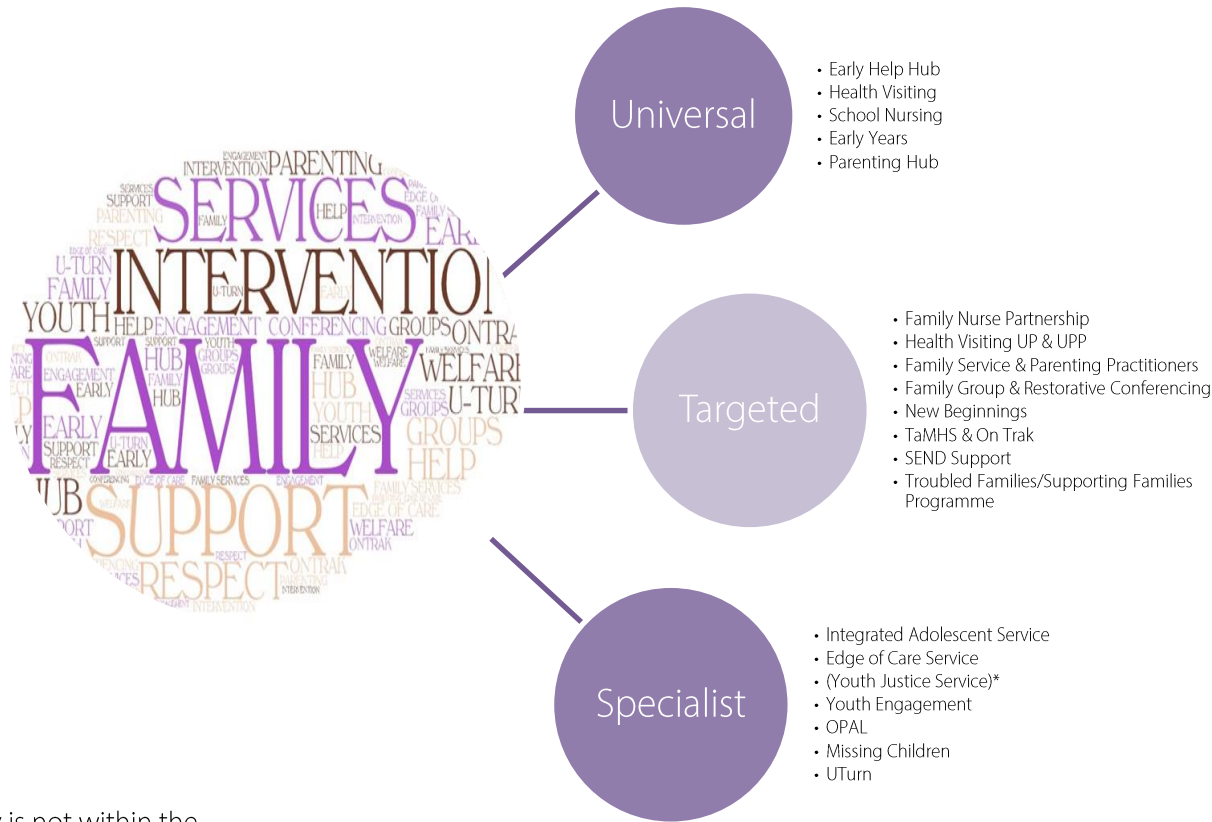
Jane Griffiths

Head of Partnerships, Early Years, Early Help & SEND Support



**SWINDON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Family Intervention & Support Services (FISS)

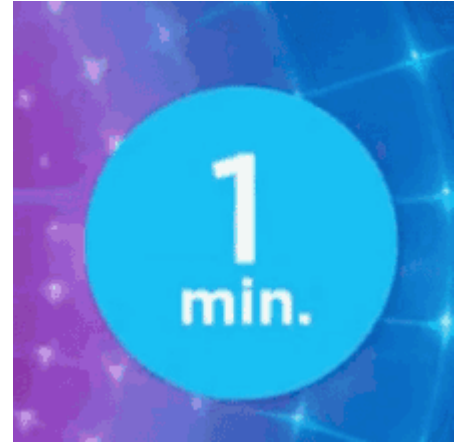


\* The YJS currently is not within the formal management of FISS but works closely with all the FISS services and sits within Children’s Services.

# One Minute Guides

One Minute Guides are available here:

[One Minute Guides for FISS Services](#)



# Integrated Adolescents Service

Swindon are developing an Integrated Adolescents Service to build on the success of the Edge of Care Team, OPAL and Youth Engagement Team.

Whilst we are in the early stages of agreeing our internal structures we will be working with partners to ensure that we have the right skills and expertise in the team to ensure a multi agency approach to this complex work.

Swindon have successfully bid and will be implementing the Family Safeguarding Model from 2022 and this service has to be in place to support this new way of working for social care teams.

# What is the 'safeguarding adolescents' approach?

**Our vision:** In Swindon we want to embed a culture of understanding about the complexity of safeguarding adolescents where we:

**SEE** adolescents as children first

**MAINTAIN** focus on the risks that adolescents are exposed to in contexts outside the family. Respond with the right conversation, right action at the right time

## **UNDERSTAND**

- developmental needs of adolescents
- needs and risks for adolescents with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)
- influences in adolescent lives, including those outside the family context

## **CONSIDER**

the positive and negative impact of risks adolescents take in exploring their growing independence

**RECOGNISE** constrained choices that adolescents may feel powerless to avoid

## **VALUE**

the diverse range of experiences of the adolescents in Swindon and respond to the needs of adolescents of all genders, ethnicities, sexual identities and beliefs, and those who are disabled.

# Family Safeguarding Model

- The Family Safeguarding Model as designed by Hertfordshire County Council is a 'whole system' change approach for child protection.
- The model creates multi-disciplinary, co-located teams that work together to tackle the 'toxic trio', which have been identified as issues that place children at risk of significant harm.
- In this model there is a focus on engaging parents to change behaviour rather than threats to remove children for non-compliance.
- This compliments the model of Restorative Practice (working with and not to)
- There are therapeutic programmes for each professional group to follow, as well as group supervision, better sharing of information, decision making and accountability across professionals. that is currently being implemented in Swindon.

[Hertfordshire FSM](#)

# Additional Projects and Funding:

We often bid for government funding for specific projects:

**RESTORE** – Support for children affected by parental alcohol misuse

**RESPECT** – Parenting Programme to support child to parent abuse

**THERAPEUTIC SOCIAL WORK** – Funded by a range of bids providing permanent staff within FISS

Very happy to work with partners to submit joint bids.

# Work with Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment (CAPI)

An area for development from June to December 2021 is to review our offer of family support and to develop a Swindon Charter for Children affected by parental imprisonment.

- As at 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 the prison population was 77,634 (74,548 Male and 3,086 female).
- There is still no formal auditing of men's parental status while in prison. In 2003 it was suggested more than 32% of the male prison population have dependent children under the age of 18 years (Hanson 2003)



# Children and Young People

- An estimated 310,000 children see a parent go to prison each year in England and Wales
- An estimated 17,000 children are affected each year by maternal imprisonment.
- When a mother goes to prison only 9% are looked after by their other parent.
- 10,000 visits are made by children to our public prisons every week.
- 25% of prisoners' children are at higher risk of mental ill health (Jones et al. 2013)
- 65% of boys in one study who had a father in prison when they were under 10 went on to offend themselves (Murray & Farrington 2005)
- Other research shows that links with the family can be a protective factor against male re-offending (Hariston 2002)
- 7% of children will experience the imprisonment of their father during their school years.

# Action for prisoners families young people's booklet

I think the best way to find out is through your own family, not in the papers or anything

I told my mates but I didn't tell the people I work with.

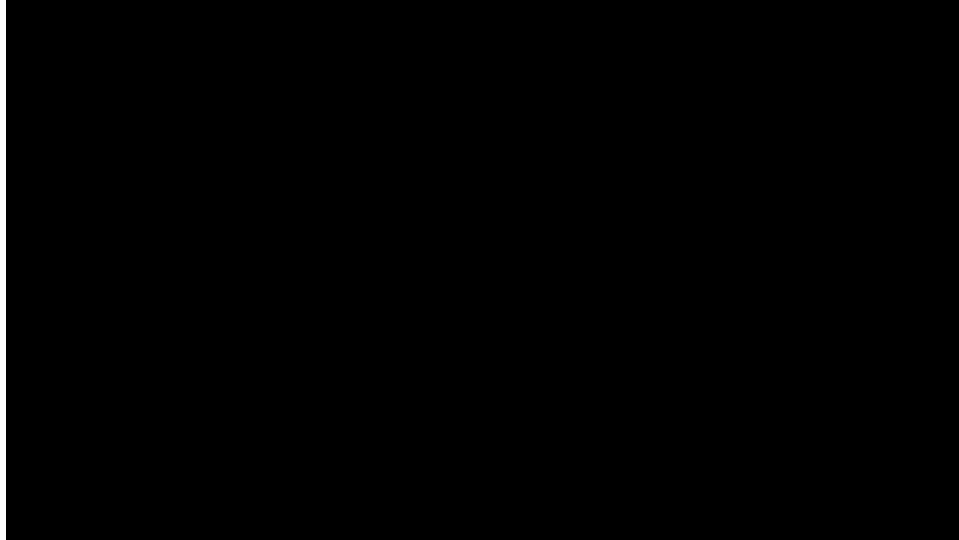
When he got arrested it caused loads of fights in the family. People were really upset with him again. Mum didn't know at first until someone told her. I felt upset at first, I missed him all the time. But I was ashamed and didn't want to tell people. We never got any information from anyone – where he was or telling what was happening

I'm his son – he tells me that I'm the one that makes him hang on. I feel that I am the one keeping the family together 'head of the family'. I'm the only one visiting my brother"

Mum told me and my big sister that he had gone down for 3 years. She told the younger ones that he'd gone to work for the Queen! The family helped us a bit.

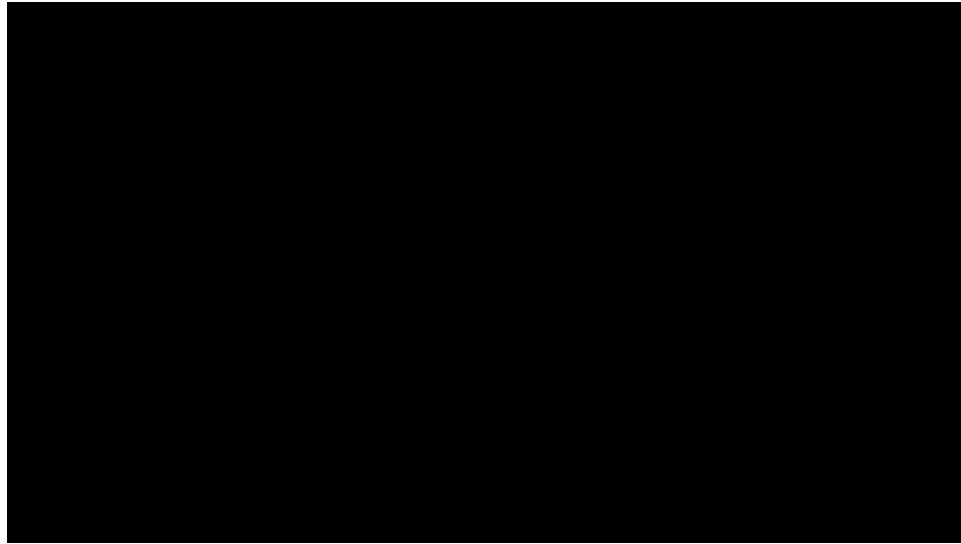
She mustn't think we don't love her .... If we don't keep in touch she will think we don't love her and she will harm herself again.

# KYRAS STORY



Children, Families & Community Health

# OLLIES STORY



Children, Families & Community Health

# What support can SBC and partners offer?

Support will be required for children and families, it is proposed that:

- SBC use the free resources and training available from the National Information Centre on Children of Offenders
- SBC adapt the Barnardo's i-HOP Quality Statements and Toolkit to enable the delivery of co-ordinated support.
- SBC staff and partners are offered "Hidden Sentence" Training and each team identifies a lead professional to champion the needs of children and families of offenders.

# Toolkit

The toolkit covers 8 sections which are:

1. Awareness
2. Identification
3. Children's Voice
4. Multi Agency Working
5. Stages of the Criminal Justice System
6. Support and Services
7. Challenging Stigma
8. Building the evidence.

# Resources:

- National Information Centre on Children of Offenders (<https://www.nicco.org.uk/directory-of-resources>)
- Barnardo's i\_HOP Quality Statements and Toolkit. (<https://www.nicco.org.uk/userfiles/downloads/5aba1e8e61ba1-1-quality-statements-and-toolkit.pdf>)
- <https://www.nicco.org.uk/userfiles/downloads/5aba1e558e9b7-3-introduction-video.mp4>

# Next Steps

- Paper submitted to SBC overview and scrutiny committee for agreement for a children's charter for children affected by parental imprisonment.
- Delivery of virtual and hopefully face to face training from June to December 2021.



# Interested?

If you would be interested in supporting this work or becoming a champion please send me an email:

[jgriffiths@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:jgriffiths@swindon.gov.uk)

In the Subject Heading please put **CAPI**

# Thank you

[www.swindon.gov.uk](http://www.swindon.gov.uk)

