



THE BRIGHT
CONNECTIONS

Statement of Purpose

Bringing children and families together to build a stronger and healthier relationship



Our Family Centre



About Us

The Bright Connections Family Centre promotes a safe, warm, positive, and purposeful environment for children and their families to come together.

How we do this:

- We provide a child centred approach.
- We provide experienced qualified staff with enhanced DBS status.
- We provide a warm comfortable, safe, secure environment.
- We provide an independent and impartial service.
- We promote an atmosphere of partnership and co-operation.
- We encourage siblings' relationships.

The Bright Connections Family Centre will:

Ensure that the child(ren) are effectively safeguarded during their family time. Staff will endeavour to work with the parent or connected other and child(ren) to ensure that all have an enjoyable, positive time.

Where possible, endeavour to provide families with the same Family Time Supervisor throughout their involvement with the service, in order to promote a positive and comfortable working relationship.

Aims to promote an atmosphere of partnership and co-operation so that all involved in the care of a child(ren) are working together to promote their best interests and to meet their needs in respect of education, health, welfare, identity, ethnicity, culture, and emotional wellbeing.

Recruit, assess, train, support and supervise a wide range of Family Time Supervisors who can meet the needs of the child(ren) who utilise our service. A high-quality service will be provided through the provision of our range of family time.

Organisational Structure

The Bright Connections Family Centre is currently made up of 4 members of staff which includes the Family Centre Manager and Co-ordinator, who are overseen by an experienced registered Children's Home Manager. They are also a board and trustee member. In addition to the permanent staff group the service also uses bank staff to help cover additional pressures on capacity.

All Family Time Supervisors are required to have achievements both academically and directly in working with children and families within a supportive social care environment.

In-terms of qualifications there is an essential requirement for Family Time Supervisors to have or be working towards a NVQ level 3 or equivalent qualifications within a social care setting. This level of qualification and experience is required due to the safeguarding role of the Family Time Supervisor, supporting children and families.

Staff within the Family Centre have a wide range of skills and experience and have come to the service from a wide variety of different career paths in working with children and families.



Facilities

The Family Centre has a big room that is fully equipped with various age-appropriate toys that stimulate the development of the child(ren). The centre also has a sensory room for babies and child(ren) with additional needs.

All staff and visitors to the centre are required to sign in and out of the building for health and safety reasons.

There are two allocated toilets that are suitable for children that are being potty trained. There are also baby changing facilities.

There is a kitchen with a cooker for making and preparing food, as well as a microwave for heating food. Alongside this, there is a kettle for making or warming bottles.

There is a large garden fully equipped with garden toys for the child(ren) to enjoy.

Health & Safety

The Bright Connections Family Centre is a smoke free building. It is fully equipped with smoke detectors and appropriate fire extinguishers in strategic locations, this system is maintained and regularly inspected.

The Referral Process

The Bright Connections Family Centre receives referrals from a variety of people to include social workers, CAFCASS, solicitors and private referrals.

A referral form and risk assessment(s) are completed outlining details of the child(ren) and family, a brief history of involvement, level of family time directed as part of the care proceedings or what is considered an appropriate level of family time. Also considered in the referral process is the levels of risk to the child(ren) and Family Time Supervisor. Should the referral be a private referral, a referral form is completed by both parents. Prior to family time taking place, a pre-visit with parent(s) and child(ren) is conducted. Matching considerations are undertaken upon allocation of the referral to a Family Time Supervisor.

Family Time Supervisors have a variety of different strengths and skills in working with different service user groups and these strengths and skills wherever possible are matched to the child(ren) and the family. This best practice is a key element in the promotion of positive family time, as it helps to promote more readily the positive working relationship between the child(ren), family and the Family Time Supervisor.

Upon receipt of the referral form, the Family Centre Manager or Co-ordinator will follow up the referral form with the key individual to discuss any changes recently made to the arrangements and whether supervised family time has been taking place prior to the Family Centre becoming involved, including what risk measures are in place, what or if there are any other professionals working with the family and if the family time has been court directed.

***The term connected other refers to grandparents, aunties and uncles, cousins, and those that have shared a close relationship with the child(ren).**

OUR SERVICES

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Supervised Family Time

- This is the supervision of a child(ren) by a safe adult.
- Used when it has been determined, that in order for a parent(s) or connected other* to see the child(ren) they must be supervised.
- Supports the physical safety of a child(ren) and promotes their emotional wellbeing whilst supervised from arrival to departure.
- All supervised family time, to include community base, include an observation family time report.

Hospital Family Time

- This is a service that we provide for parent(s) or connected other that have a child in hospital and require supervision while they are there. This is offered for babies, toddlers and older children.
- It's supervised throughout and an observation family time report is provided.
- We have a wealth of experience working with parent(s) and their new born babies. From feeding, changing, emotional warmth and stimulation.

Supported Family Time

- This is a low level of supervision for parent(s) child(ren) or connected other*.
- This form of family time is suitable for families where no significant risk has been identified.
- Staff record arrival and departure time of family time.
- Staff offer assistance, however no close supervision takes place and no observation family time report is provided.

Handover Service

- This service enables parents that do not wish to meet with the parent that the child(ren) reside with, to not meet, as staff facilitate the handover of the child(ren).
- The parent then takes the child(ren) out for the duration of their family time and returns them back to the centre or the agreed meeting point, where staff facilitate the child(ren) returning to their parent.
- Handover can take place at an agreed location in the community or at one of our centres.

Contact Us

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