

Autum Term 2 Newsletter 2025

Safeguarding, everyone's responsibility

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Working Together to Support Families in Lancashire

Dear Parents and Carers,

We know that sometimes life can feel overwhelming — juggling family, school, health, finances, and everything in between. At times, families may be offered support from Children's Social Care or Child and Family Services, and we understand this can feel worrying or confusing.

This newsletter aims to share some real examples of how these services have helped families here in Lancashire, and to reassure you that social workers and family support teams are here to work with you, not to judge or punish.

What Are Children's Social Care and Family Services?

Children's Social Care and Family Services are teams of professionals — including social workers, family support workers, mental health practitioners, and wellbeing specialists — who can help when families are finding things hard.

They can support with the following things:

- Parenting and behaviour challenges
- Family relationships and routines
- Mental health or emotional wellbeing
- Housing or financial stress
- Domestic abuse or substance misuse
- Children's attendance or engagement in school

Their goal is to help families stay together safely, and to give parents the tools and confidence to make things better at home.

A Lancashire Success Story

"Rebecca's Story"

Rebecca, a mum from Rossendale, faced some really tough times. She had struggled with her mental health and was worried about losing her children.

Through Lancashire's Family Safeguarding Model, she was offered joined-up support: counselling, mental health help, wellbeing sessions, and practical advice. The team worked with her to set small goals and build on what she was already doing well.

Over time, Rebecca turned things around — she rebuilt her confidence, improved her wellbeing, and is now helping other families as a Safeguarding Recovery Coordinator.

"All the support that I've experienced is absolutely going to help so many families," Rebecca said. "It supported me in every possible way."

Rebecca's story shows what's possible when families and professionals work together — with respect, honesty, and understanding.

What Makes Support Work Well

Across Lancashire, families are benefiting from a new way of working that's all about trust and teamwork:

Family Safeguarding Approach

Brings together experts in mental health, domestic abuse, and substance misuse to offer support in one place.

Focuses on what's working well for your family as well as what's difficult.

Uses "motivational conversations" to help you identify your own goals.

Aims to keep families together safely rather than separate them.

Proven Positive Results

Fewer children are needing to go into care (a drop from 388 to 286 since 2022).

Families report feeling more listened to, supported, and involved in decisions.

Ofsted recently rated Lancashire's Children's Services as "Good" in all areas.

Reassurance for Parents

We know the words "social worker" can sound frightening. But here's what families across Lancashire say when they've experienced support under the new approach:

"I was scared at first, but they didn't judge me. They listened."

"The help came quickly, and it really made a difference."

Remember — asking for or accepting help is a strength, not a failure. Everyone needs support at some point, and Lancashire's services are designed to build families up, not break them apart.

Our School's Role

Here at Fulwood Academy, our staff work closely with families and professionals when extra help is needed.

If we suggest a referral or early help assessment, it doesn't mean anyone is "in trouble." It means we've noticed something that could get better with some extra support — and we want to make sure you're not facing it alone.

Everything starts with a conversation. You'll always know what's happening and have a voice in any decisions made.

Family Hubs Across Lancashire

Friendly community spaces where families can get early help and advice.

Support covers pregnancy, early years, childhood, and teenage years.

Staff include health visitors, early help workers, and family support staff.

You don't have to wait for a crisis to get help — you can drop in for advice or guidance at any time.

Want to Know More?

You can find out more about Lancashire's family services at:

 www.lancashire.gov.uk/familysafeguarding

 www.lancashire.gov.uk/familyhubs

"It wasn't about taking my kids away — it was about helping us be a stronger family."

"The help came quickly, and it really made a difference."