



Children and Families Directorate

Meet the Team Directory

Updated: October 2024

Introduction



Welcome to the latest Children and Families ‘Meet the Team’ directory. Here you’ll find details of who to contact and how to reach them, and we hope it continues to prove a useful resource. We’ll aim to tweak the directory regularly, so any changes are reflected as soon as possible.

In as much as people may change, our vision has not, and remains clearly on delivering the very best services possible for our children and young people. Ensuring that they are all safe, healthy, included, confident and achieving – and that Birmingham is great place to grow up, where all children and young people thrive.

Only by working collaboratively and holding each other accountable can we achieve this, and I know that we are all on the same page in that respect – working in true partnership to achieve brighter futures for our children and young people.

I’ll very much look forward to staying in touch and communicating with you regularly. In the meantime, my heartfelt thanks for everything you do to provide a safe learning environment for our children and young people and contributing wholeheartedly to making Birmingham a great place to grow up.

With my very best wishes

Sue

Dr Sue Harrison
Strategic Director for Children and Families
Birmingham City Council



Children and Families Directorate

Our permanent senior leadership team is now in place and key service areas are:

- Thriving Children and Families
- SEND and Inclusion
- Children's Commissioning and Performance
- Schools and Employability

The redesigned structure has been developed using the following core principles:

- Identifying and supporting early, aiming to get it right first time
- Professionals and services that wrap around our children and families
- Strengths-based and relationship-based practice with our children, families, each other and our partners
- Working together with our partners across the city as one system, putting children and families at the heart of everything they do

Delivering Services for Our Children and Young People in Partnership

The Children's Services Directorate commissions key partners to deliver some critical services for children and young people on the council's behalf.

- [Birmingham Children's Trust](#) delivers early help, children's social care, including fostering and adoption services, in addition to leading Birmingham Youth Justice Service
- The Healthy Child Programme is delivered by [Birmingham Forward Steps](#) (NHS with Voluntary Sector Provider Collaborative).

Birmingham Children and Young People's Partnership

The [Birmingham Children and Young People's Partnership](#) is a collaboration between Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Children's Trust, Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, West Midlands Police and the Birmingham Voluntary Services Council. The partnership works together as one, with a set of shared priorities that everyone is behind. The partnership is committed to working with families and communities, and improving outcomes for babies, children, and young people across Birmingham.

We want to make Birmingham a great place to grow up for our babies, children, and young people. That's why the Birmingham Children and Young People's Partnership have produced the [Change for children and Young People 2023-2028](#), to that together we can change the conditions in which our babies, children and young people grow up.

Our services for children and families are also coordinated within a wider context of statutory partnerships, including:

- [Health and Wellbeing Board](#)
- [Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
- [The Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board](#)
- [Community Safety Partnership](#)

How to Contact Us

If you're worried about a child the Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) provides a single point of contact for professionals and members of the public who want to access support or raise concerns about a child:

Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 5:15pm

Friday: 8:45am to 4:15pm

Telephone: 0121 303 1888

Emergency out-of-hours

Telephone: 0121 675 4806

To report a concern about a child or find out how families can get help visit: [Worried about a child | Birmingham Children's Trust \(birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk\)](https://www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/worried-about-a-child)

This document includes email addresses for service leads and the key teams within the Children and Families Directorate.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dr Sue Harrison – Strategic Director of Children and Families
Sue.M.Harrison@birmingham.gov.uk

Holds the statutory position of Director of Children’s Services and leads the team in Birmingham



Razia Butt – Director of Thriving Children and Families
Razia.Butt@birmingham.gov.uk

Lead for: Education Safeguarding, Children Missing Education, Elective Home Education, Child Employment and Chaperone Licensing, Virtual School



Helen Ellis – Director of SEND and Inclusion
Helen.Ellis@birmingham.gov.uk

Lead for: Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review, Early Years, Educational Psychology, Communication and Autism, Home Bridging Team, Sensory Support/Physical Difficulties, Occupational Therapy, Pupil and School Support, Alternative Provision



Adrian Weissenbruch – Director of Children’s Commissioning and Performance
Adrian.Weissenbruch@birmingham.gov.uk

Lead for: Commissioning, contractual agreements, data analysis, performance metrics, home-to-school transport



Steve Kay – Director of Schools and Employability
Steve.Kay@birmingham.gov.uk

Lead for: School Improvement, School and Governor Support, School Admissions, 14-19 Skills and Employability, Birmingham Careers Service, Youth Service, Education Infrastructure, Attendance and Exclusions

HEADS OF SERVICE AND SERVICE LEADS		
Thriving Children and Families		
Interim Joint Head of Virtual School	Naomi Molesworth	naomi.molesworth@birmingham.gov.uk Leading on emotional and mental health, partnership work with Birmingham Children’s Trust, Early Years and ArtsMark. BirminghamVirtualSchool@birmingham.gov.uk
Interim Joint Head of Virtual School	Mark Cole	Mark.Cole@birmingham.gov.uk Leading on Post-16, SEND and PEP development. BirminghamVirtualSchool@birmingham.gov.uk
Acting Principal Officers Education Safeguarding	Angela James Denise Mills	Angela.James@birmingham.gov.uk Denise.Mills@birmingham.gov.uk Safeguarding services, including training opportunities and Designated Safeguarding Lead network meetings, together with front door services – CASS, MASH, EMPOWER U. EducationSafeguarding@birmingham.gov.uk CASSEducation@birmingham.gov.uk
Interim Head of Educational Safeguarding Partnerships	Tracey Linton	Tracey.Linton@birmingham.gov.uk Elective Home Education and Child Licencing services. EducationSafeguarding@birmingham.gov.uk
Interim Head of Service for Attendance and Inclusive Pathways	Wasim Arif	Wasim.Arif@birmingham.gov.uk Supporting the development of inclusive pathways for attendance and preventing exclusions.
Senior Education Advisor	Ayisha Ali	Ayisha.Ali@birmingham.gov.uk Providing specialist advice, support and challenge on highly complex and intersectional safeguarding issues to school leaders and other education providers, including early years, special schools, post 16 providers and out of school settings.

SEND and Inclusion		
Service Lead for Pupil and School Support and Interim Service Lead for Communication and Autism team, Home Bridging Team, and Sensory Support / Physical Difficulties	Heather Wood	Heather.Wood@birmingham.gov.uk Specialist support in developing good autism practice, cognition, learning and language needs, home bridging requirements, sensory and physical difficulties. PSSleadershipteam@birmingham.gov.uk SSPDSeniorLeadership@birmingham.gov.uk CATLeadershipTeam@birmingham.gov.uk
Acting Head of Early Years SEND: Early Years Inclusion Support including the Early Support Service and the Area SENCo Team	Karen Jones	Karen.A.Jones@birmingham.gov.uk Supporting children with SEND in their family and home context and through transition into their first early years setting. Offering advice, support and training to ensure private, voluntary and independent early years settings are inclusive and meet the needs of children with SEND.
Principal Educational Psychologist	Pauline Bromfield	Pauline.Bromfield@birmingham.gov.uk Providing professional Psychological Services for children, young people and families in a wide range of educational and community settings. EducationalPsychology@birmingham.gov.uk
Occupational Therapy Team Manager	Colin Jones	Colin.Jones@birmingham.gov.uk Providing a range of services to enable children and adults with disabilities to carry out essential activities during their daily lives. CYPOT@birmingham.gov.uk
Head of SENAR	Natalie Williams	Natalie.L.Williams@birmingham.gov.uk Offering advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and providing statutory assessments for children requiring SEND services. SENAR@birmingham.gov.uk

		EHCPReviews@birmingham.gov.uk Senartransfers@birmingham.gov.uk Post16Administration@birmingham.gov.uk
Head of Early Years and Childcare	Lindsey Trivett	Lindsey.Trivett@birmingham.gov.uk Ensuring sufficient, good quality childcare for children aged 0-14 (16 with SEN) and access to early education places for all 3-4 year olds, targeted 2 year olds, and children aged 0-2 of working parents. EarlyEducation@birmingham.gov.uk EYDuty@birmingham.gov.uk
Head of SEND Commissioning & Finance	David Bridgman	David.Bridgman@birmingham.gov.uk Responsibility for the commissioning and funding of places for children and young people with EHCPs; management of sufficiency and capacity planning to meet statutory duty; payment of top-up funding for schools and settings; provision of SEND business intelligence and performance monitoring; monitoring of contracts/Service Level Agreements and quality assurance of provision. SENAR.Finance@birmingham.gov.uk
Interim Head of SENDIASS	Desiree Edwards	Desiree.Edwards@birmingham.gov.uk Offering free, impartial and confidential advice and support to families of children and young people with Special Educational Needs.
Alternative Provision	Lisa Smith	Lisa.Smith@birmingham.gov.uk Responsible for ensuring delivery of the AP Improvement Plan for the city.
Children's Commissioning and Performance		
Applications, Eligibility & Review Senior Lead	Carla Filby	Carla.Filby@birmingham.gov.uk Responsibility for the successful delivery of risk assessments of applications; ensuring they are correctly assessed, reviewed and appropriate travel arrangements allocated.

		elig.travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk
Travel Passenger Lead	Sarah Norman	Sarah.Norman@birmingham.gov.uk Responsible for ensuring that children and young people requiring additional assistance are allocated a Travel Passenger Assistant with the relevant skills and capability to best support them.
Travel Operations Lead	Marie Nicely	Marie.Nicely@birmingham.gov.uk Responsible for sourcing and procuring transport providers, and scheduling and routing of all transport bookings.
School Travel Liaison and Compliance Lead	Jay Shimano	Jay.Shimano@birmingham.gov.uk Responsible for providing excellent customer service and effective management of all Children and Young People’s Travel Service complaints. Ensuring service standards are compliant and effectively monitored and maintained across the service.
Head of Digital, Evidence and Performance	David Fallows	David.Fallows@birmingham.gov.uk Responsible for ensuring the directorate has the right digital tools and skills required to provide accurate data to inform better outcomes for children and families. Education data team: educationdata@birmingham.gov.uk
Head of Commissioning – Vulnerable Children	Debdatta Dobe	Debdatta.Dobe@birmingham.gov.uk Leading on strategic commissioning priority areas across Early Help, Services for education, and Virtual School, including HAF and Short Breaks. Commissions and manages strategic relationships with BCT, SACRE, Young commissioners and parent carer champion networks.

Schools and Employability		
Head of School Improvement	Jaswinder Didiaily	Jaswinder.didially@birmingham.gov.uk Responsible for developing strong partnership working with schools, the Regional Director and the Department for Education. Key areas include academisation, schools causing concern, SEND free schools, developing Local Provision and development of the SAFE centre. School.Improvement@birmingham.gov.uk
Interim Strategic Lead for Development	Lisa Smith	Lisa.Smith@birmingham.gov.uk Key areas of responsibility include strategic development, working closely with schools and partners to agree a new vision for collaborative school improvement across the city, developing local provision, BCC schools and learning website content.
Head of School Admissions, Attendance, Exclusions and Pupil Tracking	Alan Michell	Alan.Michell@birmingham.gov.uk Coordinating admissions and appeals arrangements, including advice on attendance and exclusions. admissions@birmingham.gov.uk exclusions@birmingham.gov.uk attendance@birmingham.gov.uk
Head of Youth Service	Soulla Yiasouma	Soulla.Yiasouma@birmingham.gov.uk Youth Centre based support for young people aged 11-19, providing the skill set and social development required for adulthood.
Delivery Manager Birmingham Careers Service	Sian Powell Sandra Bebb	Sian.powell@birmingham.gov.uk Sandra.bebb@birmingham.gov.uk Offering free impartial careers guidance and support to young people aged 16 to 19 (up to 25 for those with additional needs) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)/at risk of NEET. Delivering a traded careers guidance service for schools/colleges. BCareers@birmingham.gov.uk

Head of Post-16 Skills and Employability	Spencer Wilson	Spencer.Wilson@birmingham.gov.uk Leading the strategic responsibility for the provision of a portfolio of services that includes 14-19 participation, careers service, employment access, 14-29 Progression Pathway for young people with Special Educational Needs, youth skills and employability services. 14-19@birmingham.gov.uk
Interim Head of School and Governor Support	Levain Preston	Levain.Preston@birmingham.gov.uk Supporting school leaders, staff, governors, trustees and clerks to create strong leadership, management and governance. School.Support@birmingham.gov.uk
Head of Education Infrastructure	Zahid Mahmood	Zahid.Mahmood@birmingham.gov.uk Offering advice and support on property and asset related issues, capital projects, administration of landlord approval and dual funding applications for building projects. eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk
Strategic Governance and Planning		
Head of Strategic Governance and Planning	Fayth Skeete	Fayth.Skeete@birmingham.gov.uk Responsibility for driving the Directorate's continuous improvement and research. Leading on strategic governance, planning, learning and development, communication and engagement and quality assurance functions to meet the Council's priorities and service targets to secure robust, effective and efficient services.