



Children and Families Directorate

Meet the Team Directory

Updated: May 2024

Introduction

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OFFICIAL



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. Our new balanced education and school improvement model will ensure everyone has a voice and that we work 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

The Children and Families Directorate continues to implement its new structure. The senior leadership team is almost in place, with one role yet to be recruited to during May 2024.

The key service areas are:

- SEND and Inclusion
- Thriving Children and Families
- Schools and Employability
- Children and Young People's Travel Service
- Strategy, Commissioning and Transformation

The redesigned structure is being 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 Council delivers services for Children, Young People and Families through its Children and Families Directorate, led by the statutory Director for Children's Services (DCS). The Children and Families Directorate delivers services such as early years support and education, including support for vulnerable learners, services for children with special educational needs and disabilities, children and young people's travel, youth and career services.

Some services for children and young people in Birmingham are delivered by other organisations on behalf of the Council, for example:

- Birmingham Children's Trust who deliver early help, children's social care and lead the Birmingham Youth Justice Service
- The Healthy Child Programme delivered by Birmingham Forward Steps (NHS with Voluntary Sector Provider Collaborative).

Colleagues from the Council and our commissioned services work together in partnership to support children and young people at a strategic and operational level.

All services for children and young people operate in the context of partners working together as a whole system to improve outcomes for children, young people, their families, and communities. This includes early years, schools, and post 16 education settings and of course our children, young people, parents, carers, wider families and communities.

The Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership is the overarching strategic group that focuses on taking a whole-system approach to improving the life chances of children and young people in our city. The partnership is led by the Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership Board which brings together the Council, Birmingham Children’s Trust, NHS Integrated Care Board, NHS Providers, West Midlands Police and Birmingham Voluntary Services Council.






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, Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board, Community Safety Partnership.

How to Contact Us

Birmingham Children’s Services can be contacted on 0121 303 1888 (Monday to Thursday 8.45am-5.15pm, Friday 8.45am-4.15pm).

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

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

	<p>Dr Sue Harrison – Director of Children and Families Sue.M.Harrison@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Holds the statutory position of Director of Children’s Services and leads the team in Birmingham</p>
	<p>Helen Ellis – Director, SEND and Inclusion Helen.Ellis@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>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 and Developing Local Provision</p>
	<p>Razia Butt – Director, Thriving Children and Families Razia.Butt@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Lead for: Education Safeguarding, Children Missing Education, Attendance and Exclusion, Elective Home Education, Child Employment and Chaperone Licensing</p>
	<p>Helen Price – Director Commissioning, Strategy and Transformation Helen.X.Price@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Lead for: Commissioning, Performance and Business Intelligence, Strategic Governance and Planning, Strategic Partnership, Joint Commissioning</p>
	<p>Adrian Weissenbruch – Assistant Director, Children and Young People’s Travel Service Adrian.Weissenbruch@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Lead for: Children and Young People’s Travel, Independent Travel</p>
	<p>Director, Schools and Employability</p> <p>It is anticipated that this role will be recruited to in May 2024.</p>

HEADS OF SERVICE AND SERVICE LEADS		
School Improvement		
Head of School Improvement	Jaswinder Didiaily	Jaswinder.didiaily@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.
Interim Strategic Lead	Fiona Chamberlain	Fiona.Chamberlain@birmingham.gov.uk Key areas of responsibility include developing a school data dashboard, schools causing concern, SACRE, Schools Forum, and continued development of the training offer.
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.
Thriving Children and Families		
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
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
Interim Head of Education Safeguarding	Emma-Louise Hodgson	Emma-Louise.Hodgson@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.
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.
SEND and Inclusion		
Service Lead for Pupil and School Support and Interim Service Lead for Communication and Autism team, Home	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.

Bridging Team, and Sensory Support / Physical Difficulties		PSSleadershipteam@birmingham.gov.uk SSPDSeniorLeadership@birmingham.gov.uk CATLeadershipTeam@birmingham.gov.uk
Acting Head of Early Years and SEND	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 early years settings are inclusive and meet the needs of children with SEND.
Developing Local Provision – Strategic Transformation Lead	Lisa Smith	lisa.smith@birmingham.gov.uk DLP is aligned to the new SEND strategy initiatives to ensure early years settings and mainstream schools collaborate more effectively to plan and allocate the most appropriate provision for children, taking into account location, and reducing the reliance on high-cost specialist placements outside of the area.
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
Interim Strategic Lead for SENAR	Jo Sullivan-Lyons	Jo.Sullivan-Lyons@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 EHCReviews@birmingham.gov.uk Senartransfers@birmingham.gov.uk Post16Administration@birmingham.gov.uk
Children and Young People's Travel Service		
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 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

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
Commissioning, Strategy and Transformation		
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.
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 SENAR Commissioning	David Bridgman	David.Bridgman@birmingham.gov.uk Responsibility for the brokerage 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 and quality of contracts/Service Level Agreements; individual placements and coordination of EHCP transition processes.

<p>Head of Commissioning – Vulnerable Children</p>	<p>Debdatta Dobe</p>	<p>Debdatta.Dobe@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Leading on strategic commissioning priority areas across Early Help, Services for education, and Virtual School, including HAF and Short Breaks.</p> <p>Commissions and manages strategic relationships with BCT, SACRE, Young commissioners and parent carer champion networks.</p>
<p>Head of Employment and Skills</p>	<p>Spencer Wilson</p>	<p>Spencer.Wilson@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Ensuring suitable education and training opportunities are available for all 16 to 19 year olds, and 16 to 25 year olds with learning difficulties and disabilities, with a focus on young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).</p> <p>14-19@birmingham.gov.uk</p>
<p>Interim Head of SENDIASS</p>	<p>Desiree Edwards</p>	<p>Desiree.Edwards@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Offering free, impartial and confidential advice and support to families of children and young people with Special Educational Needs.</p>
<p>Head of Birmingham Careers Service</p>	<p>Kev Jones</p>	<p>Kev.Jones@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Offering free impartial careers advice and guidance to young people aged 16 to 19 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), and supporting young people who have learning difficulties and/or disability up until the age of 25. Delivering a traded careers guidance service for schools.</p> <p>BCareers@birmingham.gov.uk</p>