



Children and Families Directorate Meet the Team Directory Updated: February 2026

A purple banner containing the Birmingham City Council logo on the left, a white line-art illustration of a building with a flag on top in the center, and contact information on the right.

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Introduction



Welcome to the latest Children and Families ‘Meet the Team’ directory.

This guide brings together key contacts across the directorate, helping everyone stay connected and ensuring you can quickly reach the right senior leads. We will continue to update the directory regularly so that any changes are reflected as soon as possible.

While our teams and structures may evolve, our shared vision remains constant: to deliver the very best services for Birmingham’s children and young people – ensuring they are safe, healthy, included, confident and achieving, and that Birmingham is a great place to grow up.

We can only achieve this by working collaboratively, supporting one another, and holding ourselves to the highest standards. I know we are united in that commitment, working in true partnership to secure brighter futures for all children and young people across our city.

Thank you for everything you do, every day, to make this vision a reality. I look forward to staying connected and continuing our shared work over the coming months.

With my very best wishes

Sue

Dr Sue Harrison
Executive Director of Children and Families
Birmingham City Council



Sue is absent from work for the time being, and the Council has asked me to step in for a time-limited period as the Interim Executive Director and statutory Director of Children’s Services, alongside my substantive role with the Birmingham Children’s Trust.

I will endeavour to provide both continuity and continued momentum in all that we do in serving the children and families of the city – with a strong focus upon teamwork, continual improvement and Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

James Thomas
Chief Executive Birmingham Children’s Trust
Interim Executive Director of Children and Families

Children and Families Directorate

Key Service Areas

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

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's Plan 2023-2028](#), so 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](#)

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

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dr Sue Harrison – Executive 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.



**James Thomas
Chief Executive of Birmingham Children’s Trust and
Interim Executive Director of Children and Families**

James.A.Thomas@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk



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, the Virtual School, New to Birmingham, and support for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities.



Helen Ellis – Director of Early Years, 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.



Martin Fitzwilliam – Interim Director of Schools and Employability

Martin.Fitzwilliam@birmingham.gov.uk

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

HEADS OF SERVICE AND SERVICE LEADS

Thriving Children and Families

Head of Birmingham Virtual School	Lisa Smith	Lisa.Smith@birmingham.gov.uk Coordination of educational services for children in care and those who are care experienced. BirminghamVirtualSchool@birmingham.gov.uk
Head of Educational Safeguarding Partnerships	Tracey Linton	Tracey.Linton@birmingham.gov.uk Responsible for services including Elective Home Education, Children Missing Education, Children Out of Sight and Child Licencing, New to Birmingham and support for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities. EducationSafeguarding@birmingham.gov.uk
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
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.
Senior Education Leader	Wasim Arif	Wasim.Arif@birmingham.gov.uk Leading on safeguarding strategy, leadership support for Elective Home Education and School Attendance Order teams, support for inclusive pathways to reduce exclusions and

		engagement with marginalised communities to improve school attendance and behaviour.
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		
Head of SENAR	Natalie Williams	Natalie.L.Williams@birmingham.gov.uk Delivery of statutory Education, Health and Care needs assessments and annual reviews of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The Resolutions and Appeals teams within the SENAR service lead on mediations, complaints and tribunals. 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, high-quality early education and childcare for children aged 0–14, and up to 18 for those with special educational needs. The service secures funded early education entitlements, supports provider quality and inclusion, and fulfils the local authority’s sufficiency, safeguarding and information duties. It plays a key role in delivering integrated early help through Best Start Family Hubs, working with health and family support partners to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities for babies and young children. EarlyEducation@birmingham.gov.uk EYDuty@birmingham.gov.uk FamilyInformation@birmingham.gov.uk WAC@birmingham.gov.uk

<p>Head of SEND Advisory & Inclusion; incorporates the following teams: Communication and Autism team (CAT), Language, Learning & Strategic Support (LL&SS) Home Bridging Team (HBT), and Sensory Support Physical needs (SPS)</p>	<p>Heather Wood</p>	<p>Heather.Wood@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Specialist support in developing good autism practice, cognition, learning and language needs, home bridging requirements, sensory and physical difficulties.</p> <p>CATLeadershipTeam@birmingham.gov.uk LLSSLeadershipTeam@birmingham.gov.uk SPSTSeniorLeadership@birmingham.gov.uk</p>
<p>Acting Head of Early Years SEND: Early Years Inclusion Support including the Early Support Service and the Area SENCo Team</p>	<p>Karen Jones</p>	<p>Karen.A.Jones@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Supporting children with SEND in their family and home context and through transition into their first early years setting.</p> <p>Offering advice, support and training to ensure private, voluntary and independent early years settings are inclusive and meet the needs of children with SEND.</p>
<p>Head of Service/Principal Educational Psychologist</p>	<p>Dr Pauline Bromfield</p>	<p>Pauline.Bromfield@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Providing professional Psychological Services for children, young people and families in a wide range of educational and community settings.</p> <p>EducationalPsychology@birmingham.gov.uk</p>
<p>Children’s Occupational Therapy Head of Service</p>	<p>Colin Jones</p>	<p>Colin.Jones@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Providing Occupational Therapy assessments, interventions and services to enable children and young adults with disabilities to carry out essential activities during their daily lives.</p> <p>CYPOT@birmingham.gov.uk</p>

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
Head of SENDIASS	Mark Paine	Mark.Paine@birmingham.gov.uk Offering free, impartial and confidential advice and support to families of children and young people with Special Educational Needs.
SEND Relationship Manager	Jodie Newson	Jodie.Newson@birmingham.gov.uk Responsibility for SEND communications, the Local Area Partnership's Local Offer website, parent carer engagement and co- production work.
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
Home to School Transport Senior Lead	Sarah Norman	Sarah.Norman@birmingham.gov.uk Manages the operational delivery of Home to School Transport and Passenger Assistance services. Focusing on safety, quality, and strong partnerships with families, schools, and providers to ensure every journey meets children's needs.

<p>Head of Digital, Evidence and Performance</p>	<p>David Fallows</p>	<p>David.Fallows@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>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.</p> <p>educationdata@birmingham.gov.uk</p>
<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 Commissioning – PFI Contracts</p>	<p>Nadia Majid</p>	<p>nadia.majid@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Providing strategic leadership for a £300m+ education PFI portfolio, ensuring statutory and contractual compliance. Overseeing service performance, legal and financial advisory coordination, and leading on school variations, capital negotiations, and dispute resolution. Representing the Council nationally, advising on policy, planning, and service delivery while driving value and quality across education and facilities services.</p>
<p>Head of Education Infrastructure</p>	<p>Zahid Mahmood</p>	<p>Zahid.Mahmood@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Offering advice and support on property and asset related issues, capital projects, administration of landlord approval and dual funding applications for building projects.</p> <p>eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk</p>

Schools and Employability

Interim Head of School Improvement	David Camps	David.Camps@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 Head of School Admissions	Mireia Mangual	Mireia.C.Mangual@birmingham.gov.uk Oversight of the school admissions process, from initial inquiry to pupil enrolment, ensuring a smooth transition into the school community. admissions@birmingham.gov.uk exclusions@birmingham.gov.uk attendance@birmingham.gov.uk
Head of Attendance and Inclusive Pathways	Beth Gibson	Beth.Gibson@birmingham.gov.uk Supporting the development of inclusive pathways for attendance and preventing exclusions.
Delivery Manager Birmingham Careers Service	Sian Powell Sandra Bebb	Sian.powell@birmingham.gov.uk Sandra.bebb@birmingham 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
Alternative Provision	Lisa Smith	Lisa.Smith@birmingham.gov.uk Responsible for ensuring delivery of the Alternative Provision Improvement Plan for the city.
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.