

Channel 4 Documentary with Birmingham Children's Trust – 2025

Channel 4 is producing a current affairs documentary following frontline social workers from Birmingham Children's Trust, to provide an accurate portrayal of their work, alongside Trust staff, external safeguarding partners and the families they support.

The documentary aims to highlight the realities of social work today, the complexity of decision-making and the vital role of multi-agency safeguarding.

If a social worker is filmed working with a child from your setting, and your staff may be involved, the film team will aim to provide advance notice and seek consent for their participation.

Two experienced filmmakers: Rhi MacDonald and Carrie Slinn are filming social workers across **Prebirth, Safeguarding and Assessment and Short-Term Intervention teams**, who respond to initial referrals which have met the threshold for statutory intervention. They will sensitively follow involvement with families, predominantly of children under 5.

True Vision Productions have a Filming Access Agreement and Data Sharing Agreement with Birmingham Children's Trust.

Family participation will be sought through a two-stage informed consent process, with additional safeguards for vulnerable individuals, with anonymity where required. The team follows strict duty of care and consent practices, and the Trust will review the documentary to ensure the best interests of children are upheld.

This is an opportunity to show school's invaluable role in the day-to-day safeguarding of our children, and the team is hopeful for support in being able to show this.

The film is being made with the support of the Family Division Presiding Judge for the Midlands, Mrs Justice Lieven, and the Designated Family Judge in Birmingham HHJ Sybil Thomas is being kept updated.

For any questions about the production or its approach, the team welcomes enquiries at: filming@truevisiontv.com and on **07725 828699**

The production company making this - True Vision - has been winning BAFTAs and numerous other awards for their documentaries for over 30 years. The company's motto is "Films that make a difference". They have extensive experience working with Children's Services (in Oxford, Stockport, Warrington, Wigan & St Helens). The specialist child welfare adviser, and former social worker,

Shelagh Beckett ensured the welfare of the child is safeguarded throughout the production process to broadcast and beyond, in all films involving vulnerable children.

Examples of True Vision's work includes: -

15,000 Kids & Counting (BAFTA nominated 3-part C4 series following the adoption process from initial welfare concerns through to final hearing)

Behind Closed Doors - Through the Eyes of the Child (BBC TWO film looking at the how parental domestic violence affects children)

Evicted (BAFTA winning BBC ONE film on the impact of homelessness on children)

Growing Up Jewish (BBC TWO film following four Jewish teenagers through their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs)

You can read more about True Vision and see more of their work here: <https://www.truevisiontv.com>

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