



## **EARLY HELP OFFER 2025 – 26**

**Service Directory & Guide to Accessing Support**

**Bury Council**

**Bury**  
Council

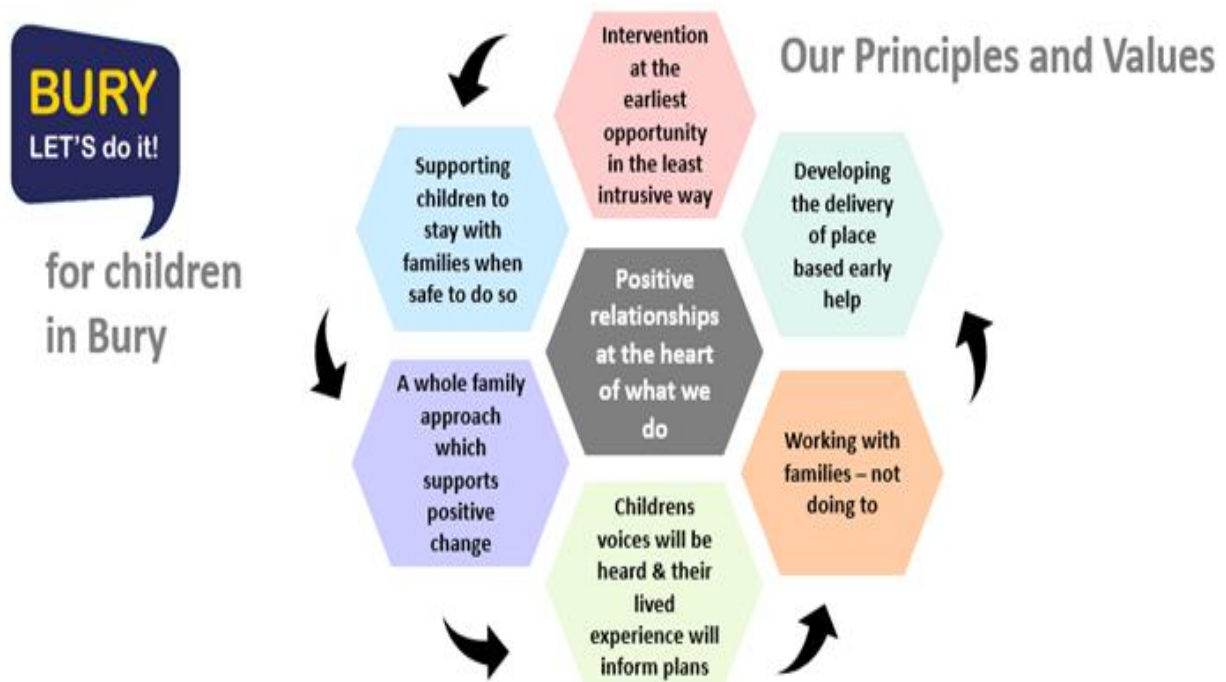
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	FOREWORD	3
2.	INTRODUCTION	6
3.	EARLY HELP SUPPORT TEAMS	1
4.	MULTI-AGENCY FAMILY HELP APPROACH	5
5.	PARENTING SUPPORT	7
6.	YOUNG CARERS SERVICE	10
7.	YOUTH JUSTICE PREVENTION SERVICE	13
8.	YOUTH SERVICE	16
9.	HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD (HAF)	20
10.	VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT PROJECT LEAD	22
11.	EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING COORDINATOR	23
12.	SPECIALIST EARLY HELP SERVICES	24

# 1. FORWARD

In Bury all partners are committed to providing support to children/young people and their families at the earliest opportunity and to work with them at the lowest appropriate level of intervention in line with the Bury Continuum of Need. This reflects our Bury LET'S DO IT strategy of offering services Locally, seeking Enterprising solutions with families to support change, a commitment to Working Together in partnership with those families, not doing to them; and building on each family's strengths to support change.

*Our children/young people have provided a vision for us to aspire to, that all children and young people in Bury reach their potential, are happy, healthy, and safe and are therefore able to make the best use of their skills to lead independent and successful lives.*



In Bury we have a strong and proactive Early Help Partnership working together to support children and families, acting early to prevent problems from getting worse and finding solutions that will make their lives better. Early Help and Prevention is a whole system approach, a way of working and everybody's business. It is about working in a collaborative way to support children, young people and families to build on their strengths, overcome challenges and make positive changes for themselves. Our Early Help and Prevention system in Bury involves a wide range of partners all playing a role in providing support and helping build the resilience of children, young people and families.

We are committed to working with children, young people and their families at the earliest opportunity to improve their lives. However, we recognise that for some children and families, specialist and targeted support may be required; where this is the case, we will work with families to help them to address worries and make sustainable and positive changes.

Over the past 12 months we have been developing our Early Help offer to children and families living in Bury. In April 2024 we made the decision to re-align our early family help services within the wider children's social care system overseen by the Director of Practice, Children's Social Care and Early Help. This shift has enabled us to strengthen our offer of support to children and families across the borough ensuring that we are able to deliver a range of services from a universal level through to specialist support as and when required.

Aims and Priorities in developing our Early Help offer:

- A 'no wrong door' approach to families accessing services: children and families will receive the right support no matter where their starting point.
- Children & families will be able to access early help support in their local area.
- Increasing the number of families being supported by prevention and Early Help.
- Our partners (statutory and non-statutory) will feel equipped, confident and supported to lead Team Around the Family plans, and they will have the support they need to do this well.
- Our family hubs, children's centres and community drop in's will be a natural first point of contact for families asking for help and support

- Our prevention & early help support will have a positive impact on children's educational outcomes; attendance, attainment and aspiration - outcomes for the children we work with will improve.
- Reduction in repeat referrals into statutory services for children and families as a result of parents / carers being supported to make and sustain positive changes for themselves and their children.
- Strengthened relationships and communication between parents, children and siblings.
- Parents feeling supported, more connected and confident in their parenting.
- Children and families being supported to engage with their wider support networks, helped by our practitioners and, where needed, our family group decision making service to develop their own family plans.

This document has been prepared for professionals working across Bury and outlines the range of the Council's Early Help services, what each service offers, how they deliver their support, how children and families can access that support, and where to find us.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

We know that every family will experience challenges and difficulties at different times in theirs and their children's lives, and that this is completely normal!

However, we also know that sometimes these problems can start impacting on family life, and at times 'asking for help' either seems too daunting, or embarrassing, or they may have no idea where to go, or who to ask for support! We want to ensure that every family has access to the right help at the right time in the area that they live.

Our family hubs and children's centres provide a 'one stop shop' for families across Bury, providing support families may need, from pregnancy through to young people turning 19 (or up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

Our early help team also offer **weekly drop-in sessions** at various locations across the borough, so that parents, carers, grandparents and others can come and speak to one of our trained practitioners who will be able to offer advice, guidance, and support, or signpost to the right service who can help.

We can offer one-to-one advice on a range of topics such as:

- Parenting
- Mental Health
- School or college
- Finances
- Parental conflict
- Friendships
- Sexual health
- Domestic abuse
- Family relationships & difficulties
- Substance misuse
- Housing
- General worries or queries

Within each of our hubs and children's centres our Early Years team have a range of activities and support for families with children aged from pre-birth to 5, this includes:

- Becoming a new parent and all the challenges that may bring
- Building loving and responsive relationships with parents/carers and their children
- Infant feeding

- Speech, language, and communication and play at home
- Supporting physical development
- Social activities such as infant massage and play groups
- Peer support for parents and carers, including dads and partners and those families with children who have SEND needs.
- Links with other teams who support parents, such as midwives, health visitors, housing, nurseries and schools, budgeting, and financial support.
- Access to parenting support, advice and guidance as babies grow.

Our Hubs and Children's Centres also provide a base for bringing together a range of practitioners supporting close collaboration and alignment of services to form an 'Early Help Approach'. All staff work with partners across the five neighbourhoods to deliver an integrated approach to Early Help services, these include:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| • Early Years Practitioners       | • Domestic Abuse Practitioners                                     |
| • Early Help Family Practitioners | • Youth Justice Prevention & Bury & Rochdale Youth Justice Service |
| • Parenting Practitioners         | • Education, Attendance and Inclusion team                         |
| • Portage                         | • Special Guardianship Support                                     |
| • Family Decision Making Service  | • Education Psychologist   |
| • Youth Workers                   |  |
| • Young Carers practitioners      |  |

Partners and commissioned services working from the Family Hubs and Children's Centres include:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Antenatal Clinics   | • Job Centre Plus Employment Advisers |
| • Health Visiting Service   | • Perinatal trauma & loss service     |
| • Early Break (child, young person and family service for those impacted by substance misuse) | • Talking Therapies                   |
| • Fort Alice (Domestic Abuse Service)   | • CAMHS                               |
| • Early Attachment Service  | • Housing                             |
| • Adult Learning  | • Living Well Service                 |
|   | • Talk, Listen, Change                |
|   | • NT & SA out of school teaching      |

## [Bury Children's Centres and Family Hub | Bury | Facebook](#)



**Woodbank Children's Centre Hub** Brandlesholme Road, BL8 1AX  
**Radcliffe Children's Centre Hub**, Coronation Road, Radcliffe, M26 3<sup>RD</sup>  
**Chesham Family Hub**, Chesham Fold Road, BL9 6JZ (OPENS JULY 2025)  
**East Bury Family Hub**, 25 Dorset Drive, BL9 9DN  
**Whitefield Children's Centre Hub**, Ribble Drive, M45 8TD



# 3. EARLY HELP TEAMS

## Overview

We have three Early Help teams covering the five neighbourhoods in Bury:

- East Neighbourhood Team - based at East Family Hub and covering Bury East Neighbourhood
- Radcliffe Neighbourhood Team - based at Radcliffe Children's Centre Hub covering Bury West Neighbourhood.
- Whitefield, Prestwich & North Team - based at Whitefield Children's Centre Hub and covering Bury North, Whitefield and Prestwich Neighbourhoods.

(Please see map above for location).

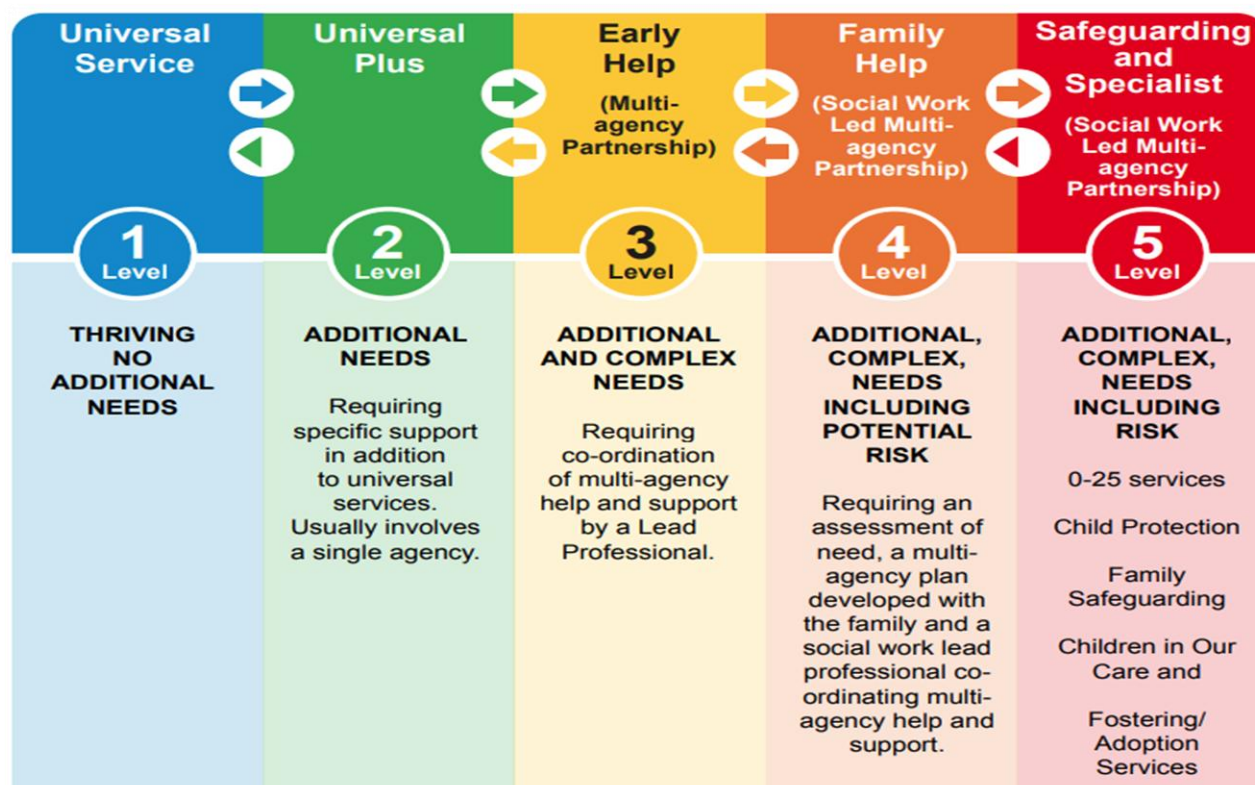
We also have a dedicated early help team within our children's social care and early help integrated front door called the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub). The MASH brings together key professionals from across the partnership to ensure timely and high-quality information sharing, analysis and decision making to then deliver appropriate and proportionate help and support, ensuring best outcomes for children, young people and families in Bury.

## Early Help MASH Team

Our early help team in MASH receive **all** requests for support from our targeted early help neighbourhood teams, youth justice prevention and young carers. Requests for support can come from parents / carers or from professionals using the attached form [multi-agency-request-for-support-form-may-2024.docx](#) and sending to [Childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk](mailto:Childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk)

Once a request has been made, one of our practitioners will undertake a MASH screening assessment that pulls together information from the parents / carers and professionals who the family are known to, to support decision-making and ensuring that families are directed to the right support service.

In Bury the level of support a family requires is set out in our Integrated Safeguarding Partnership 'Continuum of Need' threshold guidance, the document can be found here: [Continuum of Need - Bury Safeguarding Partnership](#).



If families are identified as needing support at level 3, then they will be allocated to the relevant Early Help neighbourhood team.

Targeted early help is described as *'a service provided to children and families who are identified by practitioners to have multiple or complex needs, or whose circumstances might make them more vulnerable. It is a voluntary service that provides support before statutory intervention is needed and takes a casework approach. A lead practitioner coordinates a whole family assessment to better understand the family's needs and identify the most appropriate support for the child, young person or family'*.

We have three Early Help Consultants in our MASH team and they are responsible for leading on the Multi-Agency Family Help meetings, providing advice and guidance outside of these meetings to our partner agencies, delivering training and workshops to the partnership, in addition to hosting bi-monthly lead professional network meetings in each of the five neighbourhood areas.

## Targeted Early Help Neighbourhood Teams

Our family practitioners work with families where a request for support has been made from our MASH team, or via a request from a social worker who has completed an assessment or work with a family and the plan can now be managed without the need for statutory services (often referred to as 'Step-Down').

The role of the Early Help Service is to provide targeted intervention to families in need of support. We will work with children, young people, families, and carers creatively to deliver a wide range of evidenced-based family interventions to meet their support needs.

We complete whole family assessments using the 'Story So Far' framework and 'distance travelled' progress tool to create effective support plans using SMART goals. We take a multi-agency approach and often act as the 'Lead Professional' for families. We chair Team Around the Family (TAF) Meetings to plan and review support and work collaboratively with a wide range of internal and external services.

We will work with families to help them identify people in their own support network who could possibly help them - with the aim that families and networks comes together to develop their own 'family plans'. We do this by holding 'family network meetings' or in some cases asking our Family Group Decision Making service to facilitate a family group conference meeting. We want to empower our families to develop solutions to their own challenges and use their own resources to develop resilience and support lasting change without the need for professional involvement.

We are neighbourhood based, serving the North, East, West (Radcliffe), Prestwich and Whitefield areas and spend time in the community visiting homes, schools, children's centres and family hubs and other venues on a regular basis.

Our Early Help Family Practitioners will work with parents / carers on a one-to-one basis to support them in managing children's behaviour using positive parenting strategies to help to improve family relationships, family routines and children's physical safety and emotional wellbeing. We will also complete targeted pieces of work with children and young people to address a range of worries such as school, family relationships, recognising and managing their emotions, behaviour, anxiety and social isolation.

Lead professionals outside of the neighbourhood teams (who could be a member of school staff or a health professional), supporting families may request a targeted piece of work for the family they are working with. In these circumstances we would complete the work

required but not take over the lead professional role. This is sometimes referred to as 'working within another lead professionals plan'.

We will generally work with families for between 8 to 16 weeks, although in some cases this may be extended. Our intervention is aimed at being purposeful and effective, building on a family's strengths and developing resilience to improve outcomes for all members of the family.

In a small number of situations during our work with a family we may feel that they require more specialist support that would be provided by our Children's Social Care team. Equally, there may be times when a family's problems become worse, and there are worries about a child's safety. In these circumstances the family practitioners would always speak to the family to explain their worries and explain that they need to make a referral into children's social care via the MASH, except where this would place a child at risk of immediate harm.

If Children's Social Care begin to work with the family, and are undertaking a child and family assessment, the family practitioner will continue to support the family with their agreement until a decision is made about whether the child can 'step back down' or is in need of a statutory plan (Child in Need, Child Protection, or Child Looked After plan). Where the family can be 'stepped back down', they will continue to be supported by their family practitioner who will continue to work with them on their team around the family plan.

#### Support for all Children & Families in the area

Early help family practitioners host community drop-in sessions at locations across Bury, these happen in community spaces and schools to enable families to seek help, advice and guidance in a venue that is both familiar to them and easy to access.

Families can also drop in to any of our hubs to talk to one of our practitioners - see full list on page 8

For more information please visit: [Bury Children's Centres and Family Hub | Bury | Facebook](#)

## 4. MULTI-AGENCY FAMILY HELP APPROACH

Our Multi-Agency Family Help approach: Support for nurseries, schools and partners:

Many children, young people and their families benefit from effective early help support from schools, health, and a range of partner agencies. However, at times being a lead practitioner of a Team Around the Family Plan can be challenging, and at present there is not always the right support built around our partner professionals for them to access more specialist support, advice or guidance.

We want to establish positive and effective working relationships across the partnership to ensure that our children and families receive the right help at the right time, from the right people, so that children can thrive and achieve. We believe that children and families should be supported at the least intrusive level of intervention and be provided with early help to prevent problems from escalating.

We have re-launched and strengthened our previous 'Team Around the School' offer to enable any professional across Bury who is leading on a Team Around the Family plan or completing a Story So Far assessment (our early help assessment) to seek support from a dedicated multi-agency forum. We refer to these meetings as Multi-Agency Family Help meetings (MAFH). MAFH meetings will take place monthly across all five neighbourhoods from May 2025.

The MAFH approach provides a strong foundation to support children, young people and their families by refocusing resources on prevention rather than crisis intervention. It also provides the infrastructure for agencies to continue to work together to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families from 0 to 18 (up to 25 for young people with SEND).

MAFH meetings will allow professionals to seek guidance and advice, or additional support or interventions for children, young people and their families for whom they are the lead practitioner. The MAFH approach is designed to enable comprehensive support to be provide to children, young people and their families, aiming to identify and respond to needs before they escalate into more significant issues.

We also strongly believe in being transparent with families. Families need to understand the reasons why the lead professional is requesting support via the MAFH meetings. Consent must be gained from a parent / carer with parental responsibility before any discussion.

Where consent is not provided, we will be able to provide generic advice and guidance, however, we will be unable to offer any services.

## 5. PARENTING SUPPORT

In Bury we are committed to ensure that every child has the best start in life, and to support children through the many challenges and changes they experience, to enable them to become the most successful adults they can be. We know that confident and effective parenting has a significant impact on a child's health and wellbeing throughout their whole life. If we all get parenting right for children, we know that they will go on to be better parents themselves.

Children don't come with an instruction manual so when it comes to parenting, how do we know what's best and what works? In Bury we believe that every parent matters and recognise that bringing up children is one of the hardest jobs in the world. Parents do a fantastic job often in challenging circumstances, but there are times when some extra support may be needed. As part of the support available to parents in Bury we offer the following courses to help.

### Solihull Parenting Programme

#### UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



The Solihull Approach is a 10-week parenting group for parents with children with universal to complex needs and aged between 0 and 18 years. The programme will help parents / carers deal more effectively with their child's behaviour and provide support and guidance. It is about supporting children's emotional health and wellbeing with a focus on relationships and nurturing connected, sensitive and responsive interactions

from those who care for them. Parents and carers will also learn about brain development to help them better understand their child's behaviour, communication and emotional health.

Parents / Carers or professionals can request to attend the Solihull Parenting Programme by completing the attached referral form [Parenting Program Referral Form](#).

### Who's in Charge? (WIC?) Parenting Programme





Who's in Charge? is a 9-week child to parent violence (CPV) programme intended for parents / carers whose children are being abusive or violent toward them or who appear out of parental control. It is suitable for parents and carers of children aged 8 upwards, who are experiencing child to parent abuse or violence, or where there are high levels of violence between two or more of the children within the home (sibling to sibling abuse / violence).

Parents / Carers or professionals can request to attend the Who's in Charge? Programme by completing the attached referral form [Parenting Program Referral Form](#).

### Riding The Rapids



Riding The Rapids is a programme delivered in partnership with First Point Family Support Service who lead delivery of the programme in Bury. Riding The Rapids is a high quality, evidence-based parent-training course. It is designed for parents and carers of children and young people with autism

or other complex needs, including severe learning disabilities.

Children with disabilities can have greater behavioural difficulties than other children. There is a high correlation between parental stress and difficulty with coping, and the levels of challenging behaviour and sleep disturbance in children. Riding the Rapids targets these areas to improve the quality of life and emotional wellbeing of children with SEND and their families.

For further information and to make a referral please contact First Point Family Services on 01617 621440 or [admin@firstpointsupport.org.uk](mailto:admin@firstpointsupport.org.uk)

### Stronger Relationships, Healthy Parenting



We have developed our own parenting programme: Stronger Relationships, Healthy Parenting, which is aimed to support parents / carers who are experiencing difficulties in their communication and ability to co-parent effectively.



We understand that there are different kinds of conflict in relationships. Not all conflict is damaging, but it's important to remember that the way it is displayed, how often it happens and how conflict is dealt with can all have a negative impact on children. Conflict becomes a problem when it is frequent, intense and not resolved well.

This programme will begin to be delivered from **JULY 2025** and can be accessed using the attached referral form [Parenting Program Referral Form](#) from June 2025.

### Triple P Parenting Programme



Triple P aims to help children to grow up to be healthy responsible teenagers and adults who feel good about themselves. It is a parenting and family support system designed to prevent - as well as treat - behavioural and emotional problems in children. It aims to prevent problems in the family, school and community before they arise and to create family environments that encourage children to realise their full potential.

Triple P is **only** available to families who are currently open to an Early Help practitioner or Social Worker, as this is delivered on a one-to-one basis.

## 6. YOUNG CARERS SERVICE



The Bury Young Carers service supports children and young people aged between 7 and 18 years old who are looking after, supporting or caring for a family member (a parent / carer or sibling) who would be unable to cope without their support. A young carer's day to day responsibilities could include tasks such as:

- Cooking, housework and shopping
- Physical care, such as helping someone out of bed
- Emotional support, such as talking to someone who is distressed
- Personal care, such as helping someone get dressed
- Helping to give medicine
- Making sure the bills are paid

Young carers are children first and foremost; they have the same rights as all children and young people. Young carers should be able to learn, achieve and enjoy positive, healthy childhoods, just like other children. We have recently developed our Young Carers Strategy which sets out our priorities and how we are going to deliver our local offer. For further information please refer to these documents - [Young carers - Bury Council](#)

### How to access Young Carers?

If you are a parent / carer or young person who believes that they or their child may be eligible for a young carers assessment please make contact via our online form [multi-agency-request-for-support-form-may-2024.docx](#) and sending it to [Childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk](mailto:Childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk)

Professionals can also make a request using the same process.

Families and professionals can also contact our Young Carers Service directly on [Buryyoungcarers@bury.gov.uk](mailto:Buryyoungcarers@bury.gov.uk) for advice or guidance, however, we are unable to accept requests for support via this option.

### Our Offer to Young Carers

In Bury our Young Carers and their families can expect:

- To be offered a young carer assessment of need where it has been identified that the child may be a young carer. The assessment will be updated at least annually or following any significant event in the family.
- Young adult carers will have an initial or review assessment when they reach the age of 17 (Year 12) which will be undertaken jointly with Bury Carers Hub. This promotes transition for young people between children's services and adult services. The assessment will cover a range of important areas for young adult carers, such as further education, housing, adult social care assessments and benefit eligibility.
- Following an assessment, a plan of support will be developed with the young carer and their family. This could range from access to our universal offer, targeted offer, intensive support or a team around the family plan. In a small number of situations, the assessment may recommend that the child themselves meets the threshold to receive support under a Child in Need plan - where this is the case, the young carers team will continue to support alongside a social worker.

### **Sibling Young Carers**

We also offer children support if they are a sibling young carer. A sibling young carer is any child under the age of 18 who provides some level of care to their brother or sister.

### **The Young Carers Service offers:**

- Group programmes - access to either monthly Junior (aged 7-11) sessions, or weekly Senior (aged 11+) sessions. Our group sessions allow young carers to meet other young people who are also caring and provides them with peer support and access to positive activities.
- Bespoke individual (One-to-one) support, where this is needed.
- Access to the SHINE programme, which has been designed to offer young carers (including some sibling young carers) specific information, advice and guidance on themes that may impact on them because of the caring role they undertake. The programme is aimed at helping young people understand their own needs alongside the needs of the person they are caring for and provides time away from their caring tasks. Sessions are offered both face to face and virtually to ensure that everyone can access the sessions that they need.
- Transport to activities / sessions can be provided where this is needed to ensure that none of our young carers are unable to attend sessions.
- Opportunities to engage in recreational activities, school holiday clubs and enrichment activities providing opportunities for fun and skill development, as well as helping to reduce any sense of isolation and to increase personal resilience.

- Where a child needs immediate financial support, we are able to apply for funding and grants to help with life's essentials, for example: interview clothes, household items, school supplies etc.

Our Young Carers service works closely with the local charity 'Friends of Bury Young Carers' who support us in delivering our local offer. We have also formed supportive partnerships to enhance the offer with Bury Carers Hub, Bury Rotary Club, HAF, Love Manchester, Duke of Edinburgh, Children's Adventure Farm Trust and Creative Arts. We would like to thank all our supporters, who enable us to provide our Young Carers with support and activities to give them a break from their caring duties and to help them to continue to care for those they love.

## 7. YOUTH JUSTICE PREVENTION SERVICE

Bury and Rochdale Youth Justice service works across the two local authorities delivering statutory Youth Justice intervention to young people. Responsibility for the prevention element of Youth Justice for children and young people in Bury remains with Bury Council

Our Youth Justice Prevention team work with young people aged 8 years and older who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Evidence that a young person is on the cusp of offending
- Evidence of Anti-Social Behaviour
- Meets criteria for the Turnaround Programme (detailed below)
- Identified as vulnerable from Greater Manchester Police intelligence; and also are
- Not open to Youth Justice, Complex Safeguarding or on a pathway to access their support

### Turnaround

Turnaround is a central government scheme ([Turnaround Programme - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/programmes/turnaround-programme)) operating across all Local Authorities to offer an early help approach to prevention. In Bury this enables us to support young people aged between 10 and 17 who meet one or more of the following criteria;

- Those interviewed under caution following an arrest or subject to a criminal investigation attending a voluntary interview
- Those subject to No Further Action (NFA) decision (including Outcome 22)
- Those subject to a Community Resolution (Outcome B)
- Those receiving a first-time youth caution, not including a conditional caution
- Those released under investigation (RUI) or subject to pre-charge bail (PCB)
- Those discharged by a court, acquitted at court, and / or fined by the Court.

### Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Our team also works with children and young people who have displayed or engaged in harmful sexual behaviour including those who may have committed a sexual offence.

Where concerns about harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) exist a HSB multi-agency strategy meeting will be held convened by children's social care, which will decide whether a young

person requires support from the Youth Justice Prevention or Bury & Rochdale Youth Justice Service.

Our team are trained to complete specialist assessments which are called AIMs (**Assessment Intervention and Moving On**), providing targeted interventions recommended after an AIMs assessment.

### **Youth Justice Prevention Service: Intervention & Activities**

We complete an AssetPlus assessment: the Youth Justice Board's (YJB) holistic assessment and planning framework, to help us identify what areas of need and support a child or young person needs to effectively reduce the likelihood of further or serious offending.

Following an assessment a plan will be produced with the young person which could include:

- One-to-one education, diversion and harm reduction work
- Small group work
- Requests for specialist interventions i.e., drug and alcohol misuse support
- Support to access positive community resources / activities

### **Partnership Working & Activities**

Bury Youth Justice Prevention Service works in partnership with colleagues supporting young people across the borough to deliver effective information, education, diversion and harm reduction intervention at a universal and targeted level. We work with:

- Bury Children's Social Care and Early Help services
- Bury's Children's Complex Safeguarding Team
- Bury & Rochdale Youth Justice Service
- Voluntary, Community and Faith Alliance (VCFA)
- Early Break
- Violence Reduction Unit
- Youth Service
- Education providers
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
- Greater Manchester Police
- Health
- Transport for Greater Manchester

Our Youth Justice Prevention team are involved in co-delivery of:

- School assemblies
- Victim awareness sessions
- Crime aversion events and sessions
- Harm and violence reduction projects
- Understanding the law sessions
- Delivering sessions on knife crime and gangs using virtual reality (VR) headsets
- Other diversionary activities

If a parent / carer, young person or professional believes a child or young person would benefit from support from our Youth Justice Prevention service and meet the criteria set out above, please fill in our online form [multi-agency-request-for-support-form-may-2024.docx](#) and sending to [Childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk](mailto:Childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk). If a child and family meet the criteria for support under level 3 (Early Help), a neighbourhood early help family practitioner will work alongside a prevention worker to ensure that the holistic needs of the family are being considered, and they receive the right help and support.

For children currently being supported by our Early Help Family Practitioners or Social Workers requests can be made via the Family Resource Panel.

## 8. YOUTH SERVICE



Our Youth Service delivers a range of universal and targeted youth groups across the borough. We review our Youth Service provision every school term. For the Summer Term our timetable is as follows:

Day	Elizabethan Suite Main Hall	Elizabethan Suite Lancaster Room	External Venues
MON	3.15pm-4.45pm Universal  5.15pm-7.15pm Young Women's Session	3pm-6pm Sexual Health Clinic monthly	4.30pm-5.15pm SEND Football Juniors - Castle Leisure 5.15-6.00pm SEND Football Seniors - Castle Leisure 2.45pm-4.45pm Detached Elton high school drop in tbc
TUE	Hazelwood Drop in 12.30pm-2.30pm 5.30pm-7.30pm FROGS (LGBTQ youth group)	4.30pm-6pm Youth Cabinet (fortnightly) 5pm-6.30pm Changemakers SEND Forum (fortnightly) Town Hall Care Leavers Forum (monthly)	2:30 - 4:30pm Detached 12:30-2pm The Heys Drop In 2-3.45pm Detached (Prestwich)
WED	5pm-6.30pm SEND Juniors 7pm-8.30pm SEND seniors		10.30am-12.30am SUN Project - Prestwich (fortnightly) 3:15-5:15pm Prestwich St Margaret's Universal 6.00pm-8pm Green Café Clarence Park 5.30-7.30pm Detached (Whitefield)
THUR	10.30am-12.30pm Young Mums Group 5.00pm-7.00pm Young Carers Seniors	5.00pm-6.30pm Duke of Edinburgh	Detached 12.30-14.30pm Detached 5pm-7pm 6-8pm Ramsbottom Universal
FRI	3.15pm-4.45pm Universal  5pm-7pm Young Carers Jnr (monthly)		6.00pm - 8.00pm ROC Radcliffe Detached 1.30pm-3.30pm Detached 5pm-7pm (fortnightly)  12:30-2pm Phillips High School Drop In

For more information and to keep up to date with what is going on, please see our social media platforms:

[Bury Youth Service \(@buryyouthservice\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)



[Bury Youth Service | Facebook](#)

You can also contact: [youthservice@bury.gov.uk](mailto:youthservice@bury.gov.uk)

Universal sessions are open **to all young people** and take place at 5 Neighbourhood locations - Town Centre, Radcliffe, Clarence Park, Prestwich, and Ramsbottom. We also host a range of targeted youth sessions aimed at groups of young people with particular characteristics.

The Youth Service runs weekly sessions for young people aged 11-18 or 11-25 with SEND. The weekly groups support young people to develop relationships, provide them with opportunities to explore new activities, and to explore topics and themes presented by the groups.

### **Youth Service support to schools**

Our Youth Service host drop-in sessions in schools to support social/emotional and mental health needs of young people. These are currently established in Hazelwood Secondary School, The Heys, Elton and Parrenthorn High School (from May 2025).

We also support young people who are moving from primary school to secondary school. Primary schools are offered 2-hour sessions for Year 6 pupils to help them prepare to move to secondary school. The team will also support young people in Year 7 who have been identified by the school as struggling with the transition, which may be affecting their attendance, self-esteem, confidence or peer relationships.

### **Youth Service: Detached Offer**

The Youth Service are active partners in delivering a wide range of education, information, harm reduction and diversionary activity across the borough - please see Youth Justice Prevention Service section above for further details. Our Youth Service are part of the Bury wide 'Detached Offer' which sees professionals from a range of services being out in local neighbourhoods and engaging with young people including those on the cusp of anti-social behaviour or offending.

### **School Holiday Activities**

The Youth Service along with a range of providers in Bury offer activities to children and young people over the summer holidays via our Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) offer.

Activities have included: canoeing, archery, crafts, total ninja, clip and climb, and skiing. Please see HAF section below for further details.

## **Mentoring**

Our Youth Service can provide targeted one-to-one support to young people via our mentoring offer. Work focuses on areas such as social, emotional and mental health support for a range of issues over a 6-12-week period. Social Workers or Early Help practitioners can access this support via a referral to our Family Resource Panel. Other agencies / professionals can request the support via our MASH request for service form which can be located at [multi-agency-request-for-support-form-may-2024.docx](#) and sending it to [Childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk](mailto:Childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk)

## **Voice & Participation Team**

Bury's Youth Participation Team work alongside youth workers in Bury Youth Service to ensure that local, regional and national democratic opportunities for young people are promoted to all, and we are proud of the diverse group of young people that make up our Youth Cabinet.

Bury Youth Cabinet is open to any young person aged between 11 and 19 (up to 25 if SEND/Care experienced) who live or are educated in Bury. Youth Cabinet gives young people the opportunity to engage with decision makers and to shape services across Bury. Young people meet every other Tuesday 4pm-5.30pm and six times a year they have formal meetings with adult elected members. Youth Cabinet members elect a Youth Mayor from within the group who chairs the meetings and attends local events. Youth Cabinet also organise consultation events for young people across the borough who they engage with through our secondary schools and colleges as well as through youth groups. Any young person who wants to join youth cabinet should email [youthparticipation@bury.gov.uk](mailto:youthparticipation@bury.gov.uk)

UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) is a national organisation that gives a voice to young people aged 11-18. Every local authority is invited to hold borough wide elections to choose their representatives. Bury has one member and two deputy members of the national Youth Parliament. Young people in Bury vote in secondary schools and colleges to select the candidate they want to represent them every two years. Bury's member and deputy members of Youth Parliament represent young people in Bury at local, regional and national events where they meet with decision makers, campaign and support and drive positive change for young people across the UK.

Our practitioners also work closely with a range of partners undertaking specific pieces seeking children and young people's views. Youth participation projects enable the voice of young people throughout the borough to be heard and involved in decision making processes, locally and nationally.

We also have a dedicated SEND Ambassador and Inclusion Advocate who works with children and young people with SEND across the borough to gather their views and ensure they have a voice in developing services and key decisions.

We have established 'Changemakers', which is a youth voice group for young people with additional needs and disabilities aged 11-25. The Changemakers meet fortnightly during term time and have reward trips during the school holidays.

The Changemakers sit alongside Bury's formal statutory democratic youth approach to voice, Youth Cabinet, and members of both groups are invited to attend full Cabinet meetings with elected members. Changemakers are encouraged to attend Youth Cabinet, to participate and share their views on wider issues and systems/structures affecting young people. This ensures a wide variety of participation and engagement and that the voices of our young people with SEND are heard.

## 9. HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD (HAF)

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is a government initiative, (funded by the Department for Education), that provides healthy food and fun activities during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays, for primary and secondary school age children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

We work with local schools, childcare and holiday club providers, voluntary and community organisations to deliver the programme across Bury.

The programme includes:

- Fun activities in a safe space for children
- Healthy meals for all children and young people attending
- Information and advice for parents and carers

Find out more about the national programme on [Gov.uk - Holiday activities and food programme](#).

Bury Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme activities are brought to you through Bury Council working in partnership with Bury Voluntary, Community and Faith Alliance

### Eligibility

*To be eligible for a free place, children must be of primary or secondary school age and receive benefits related free school meals.*

Eligible children will be able to access:

- Up to 16, four-hour sessions throughout the Summer holidays
- Up to 4, four-hour sessions through the Easter and Christmas holidays

There is no cost to parents for the sessions.

If you believe you are eligible for benefits related free school meals, but do not currently claim them, you can find information about how to apply on our [free school meals](#) web page.

The Local Authority can also offer a limited number of free or subsidised holiday club places to children who are not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, but who the Local

Authority believe could benefit from HAF provision. These children must be referred to us by a **school or professional** working with the family.

**For more information please see:**

[Bury Holiday Activities and Food programme - Bury Council](#)

**Contact us**

If you need further information on the Bury HAF programme, please email: [haf@bury.gov.uk](mailto:haf@bury.gov.uk).

## 10. VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT PROJECT LEAD

We have a dedicated Violence Reduction Project worker within our service who works in partnership with internal and external agencies as part of the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). The Greater than Violence strategy commits to working together with individuals and communities to understand their strengths, challenges, and ideas to tackle violence.

Our project lead supports with targeted initiatives and events across the borough including engaging with young people and communities. This work supports the partnership approach to youth justice prevention enabling information and shared data to be collated, themes to be identified and projects devised to better meet need. Joint projects include;

- Primary and secondary school specific sessions and courses to reduce risk
- Knife Angel work shops
- Stop the Bleed sessions and resources
- A Knife if a Life project and sessions
- Knife crime and youth violence consultation and co-production
- Offer of a diversionary fund
- Increased detach work responding the hot spot information and on the transport network
- Continued work with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations to support, widen and diversify their offers

For more information, please visit [Home - Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit](#)

## 11. EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING COORDINATOR

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Coordinator provides flexible, needs-led support to children and young people across Bury's educational settings. Tailored interventions, ranging from one-to-one support, group work, to large-scale campaigns are delivered across mainstream, specialist, and alternative education settings.

The coordinator supports schools in:

- Safeguarding and inclusion
- Anti-bullying and peer interventions
- Emotional regulation and resilience
- Staff training and strategy development
- Preventing exclusions and supporting at-risk groups

Our Emotional Wellbeing Coordinator works in partnership with secondary schools across the borough, and works with: Youth Services, Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS), CAMHS, Educational Psychology, Public Health, and VCFA partners.

Referrals for support can be made directly to our lead officer: [l.davidson@bury.gov.uk](mailto:l.davidson@bury.gov.uk) / 0161 253 5884.

### **Managing Moments - Trainer of Facilitators (TOF)**

In 2025, the Managing Moments TOF will be piloted across non-school services in Bury by our Emotional Wellbeing Coordinator to provide tailored emotional support for young people experiencing bereavement. The programme is developed in collaboration with community partners, Managing Moments TOF offers:

- A structured training programme for professionals with a supportive framework using restorative and reflective tools
- Small group with 1:1 delivery options in youth settings, community centres, or via early family help services
- Practical techniques for emotional regulation, memory-making, and processing grief

This pilot reflects a wider ambition to extend emotional wellbeing support beyond schools to improve consistency of support and provide early access to bereavement support.

## 12. SPECIALIST EARLY HELP SERVICES

The following services are currently only available to children and families supported by Children's Social Care and Early Help.

### 12.1 Family Group Decision Making

Our Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) service was formally known as the Family Group Conference (FGC) service which was established in September 2023.

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) is a family-led decision-making process that involves the child, their family, and friends coming together to develop a plan that protects and supports the child(ren). The process aims to empower families to make significant decisions regarding the child's future, ensuring that their voices are heard and that they play an active role in the decision-making process. FGDM draws on the strengths of the wider family network, allowing them to collaborate in finding solutions to challenges and creating a family plan for the child.

The [Children's Social Care National Framework](#) and [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#) both highlight the expectation for family networks to be engaged and empowered from an early point in the work of care professionals working with the family. The voices of family networks should be prioritised through the use of family group decision making, wherever possible, and children's services should consider offering these from the earliest point and throughout a referral.

The FGDM process is supported by a trained Family Group Conference facilitator who will work with families open to Children's Social Care or Early Help. All families referred to our Keeping Families Together team (Edge of Care service), and those subject to pre-proceedings (PLO) will automatically be offered FGDM.

Family Group Decision Making is currently only available to families being supported by a social worker or early family help practitioner. Social workers and Family Practitioners can access the service by requesting that they attend the weekly Family Resource Panel.



## 12.2 Keeping Families Together Team

*"Edge of Care"* is a term that refers to support services aimed at preventing children and young people from entering the care system. These services provide prevention support for those at imminent or potential risk of needing to be looked after, helping to keep them within their families and communities.

In Bury, our edge of care service, is called 'Keeping Families Together' (KFT). We are focused on working with the whole family, supported by multi-agency teams, to offer a clear plan and support to prevent escalation, and maintaining more children and young people to safely live at home.

The KFT team predominantly work with families of children aged 10 upwards, however, we recognise that there will be a need to be flexible and provide support to younger children and families where this is an identified need. The team will aim to provide intensive support at the right time to those children, young people and families who need it most.

The Keeping Families Together team will work with children, young people and families in the following circumstances:

- Where a child or young person has been identified as likely to require accommodation or become looked after by the local authority unless intensive support is provided.
- Where there is a high risk of family breakdown due to presenting behaviours within the home from a young person, or risk outside the home.
- Where a child or young person resides with connected carers, and this arrangement is fragile and could result in a child having to be cared for by the local authority without intensive support.
- Where a child or young person is placed with adoptive parents or special guardians, and support from post order teams has not been successful, and there is a risk of family breakdown.
- Where a child or young person has a plan for reunification home with parents/carers and there is a need for a period of intensive support to ensure a successful return home.
- Where a child or young person has been placed in an emergency or via Police Powers of Protection, and the plan is to secure a safe and successful reunification home.

Whilst the KFT service will focus on those children and families in crisis, we will also work with families where conflict is increasing and whilst the immediate plan is not to bring the child into our care, it is identified that without intensive support this action is likely to be required.

Equally, we want to offer some capacity to families who are being supported via Team Around the Family plans (TAF) in the early help neighbourhood teams. We will pilot this approach with a small number of families, where the following is identified:

- There is a history of children's social care involvement, and repeated interventions have not sustained positive change, leading to a 'revolving door' of referrals and professional input.
- There is a history of the child / young person or one of their siblings being looked after by the local authority for a period.
- Parent / child relationship is difficult with frequent arguments, verbal or physical altercations (child to parent violence) and which could result in a step-up to children's social care, but where it is felt that with the right level of intensive support the family can be maintained at a TAF level.

## 12.3 Family Support Service: Family Time Team

Family time (sometimes referred to as supervised contact) is when a child or children spends time with a parent or relative who no longer lives with them. Our team facilitates supervised family time visits in safe and neutral surroundings, using age-appropriate rooms and play areas filled with a range of toys and games to make it as relaxed as possible. Our Family Support Service is based in the Bury West Neighbourhood area of Radcliffe and caters for children and families across the borough.

Supervised family time means that someone will always be in sight and sound of the child/ren and will monitor conversations and provide assistance or intervene if necessary.

Typically, Family Time is by the agreement or at the direction of the Family Court where the Local Authority and family is in proceedings. All Family Time sessions are observed, and the Family Time Workers' records can be used within court and may contribute towards any social care or independent parenting assessment.

In delivering Family Time services, we observe the following principles:

- Family Time is essential for children to maintain an attachment to and sense of identity with their family of origin.
- The impact of all Family Time should be positive for children.
- The child's voice, views and feelings should be paramount.
- Family Time Workers have a duty to respond where it is perceived that Family Time is having a negative impact upon the child.
- Family Time should be responsive to a child's changing needs and circumstances.
- Observations should be factual, significant and easy to read.

Our priorities and aims are:

- To ensure family time is safe, rewarding and enjoyable for children, enabling them to spend time with their parent or relative with whom they no longer live
- To contribute to parenting assessments ensuring that parents are given every opportunity to engage in learning and developing new practical skills during supervised family time visits.
- To provide parents with support, guidance and advice when needed to increase their parenting knowledge and skills.
- To support children and families where there is a plan of reunification, ensuring that parents have a trusted key worker to help them
- To work in partnership with children and families, listening to their wishes and feelings about their supervised family time visits
- To support families, in partnership with our Family Group Decision Making team to develop their own family plan about how family time can be managed safely after the end of court proceedings, if appropriate.

### **Life Story Books**

Our Family Time Team also complete Life Story Books for children with a plan of adoption. Life Story books are required by law and statutory guidance for adopted children. Our team is often best placed to complete these important books for children, as they will often have supervised family time and supported these children and families during the Court proceedings.

A Life Story Book can be a powerful way of helping adopted children explore and understand their personal history. It helps adoptive parents to work together with their child as they grow older to give them a better sense of their history, identity and reasons that they were adopted. A Life Story Book will often include a celebration of life in the adoptive family, the reasons that they could not remain with their birth family and hopes for their future.

Our Life Story Books aim to provide children with:

- a sense of identity and belonging
- details and knowledge to understand their own history
- a resource to enable the child to ask questions and seek support about their past with their adopters
- a realistic account of early events to dispel any fantasies or fears about their birth family
- a link to the past to understand the present
- an understanding how early negative experiences may continue to affect them
- an acknowledgement of the separation and loss they have experienced
- a sense of security and permanency.

All requests for Life Story Books are made directly by the child's social worker to the team.

