

How to describe Safe Families

Safe Families provides early intervention and 'wraparound care' for struggling families, helping them to get back on their feet. Safe Families works to avert escalation of need by offering individually tailored support, including overnight care of the child where this is beneficial, helping to prevent the onset of crises that may necessitate statutory intervention. The Safe Families model offers families in crisis a team of approved and trained volunteers to support them; each offer is unique, dependent on the needs of the family and is determined through a strength-based approach.

Key criteria for referral

- The family in question is in need of befriending and/or overnight respite for the children.
- The support requested fits within the thresholds of risk appropriate to volunteer support.
- The children are from across the continuum of need
- The support is genuinely wanted by the family with clear parental consent.

Refer a family to the local team

london@safefamilies.uk

0333 4141 488

How volunteers help



Family Friends
Volunteers who offer family support. Giving simple advice and support to parents and children when they need it most, enabling parents to feel less isolated.



Host Homes
Volunteers host children for a night or 2, up to a couple of weeks, to allow a regular break or space if they are dealing with other issues or challenges.



Resource Friends

Volunteers who are able to provide useful items such as a cot or children's clothing, or have helpful skills such as cooking or gardening.

All volunteers go through a robust recruitment process and training to act as Family Friends and Host Homes. Our Family Support Managers carry out regular reviews throughout until the family is back on its feet.



Supporting isolated families to get back on their feet



Safe Families

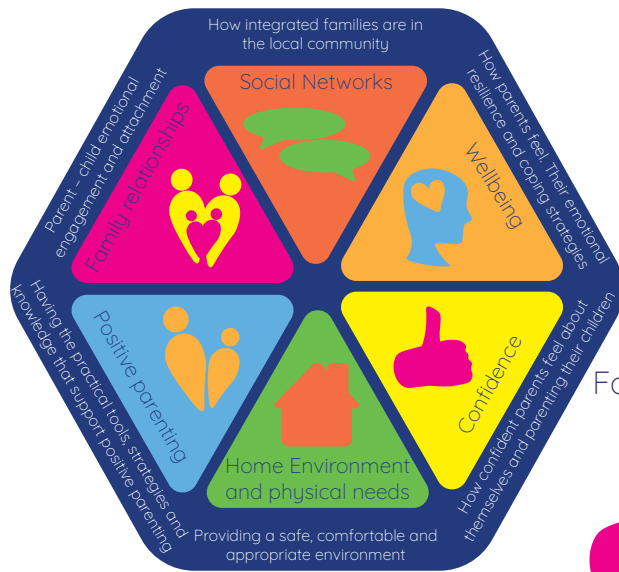


SafeFamiliesUK
www.safefamilies.uk

The progress and turn around on this case has been underpinned by the Safe Families support of this vulnerable woman and her children, and it was a pleasure to chair the meeting. A year ago, the local authority were considering removing the children from Mum. This case clearly demonstrates that working alongside families in a Strengthening Families way, with the right support and intervention, and the amazing resources now available through Safe Families, it is possible to achieve good outcomes for the most vulnerable children and families.

Child Protection Conference Chair

Safe Families measure distance travelled by families using an outcome hexagon



The support gave me so much hope and confidence for the future.

Families supported have reported



“Really really good service. Good to know there is something out there that we can access and that families benefit from.”

Safe Families is proving really effective in helping Nottingham City Council stem the flow of children into care. Our analysis suggests that over a quarter of the children benefitting from the support of Safe Families would have ended up in our care (albeit, the majority for a short period of time) equating around a 10% reduction of ‘flow’ into care. Our social work teams love it and it’s now fully embedded within our overall processes and menu of support.

Alison Michalska
Corporate Director for Children and Adults, Nottingham City Council

Partnering with local authorities

The help was amazing the volunteer didn't feel like a total stranger – I felt like I'd known her for years because she made me feel relaxed straight away. Together we got a lot done – I wouldn't have been able to do it all by myself the volunteer was friendly she just came in and got started. I wouldn't change anything about the support or my volunteer.

Supported Mum

I don't know a service that does the same work as Safe Families. It's great – they provided the emotional support that no other agency could offer.

Referring Social Worker

Refer a family 0333 4141 488
london@safefamilies.uk