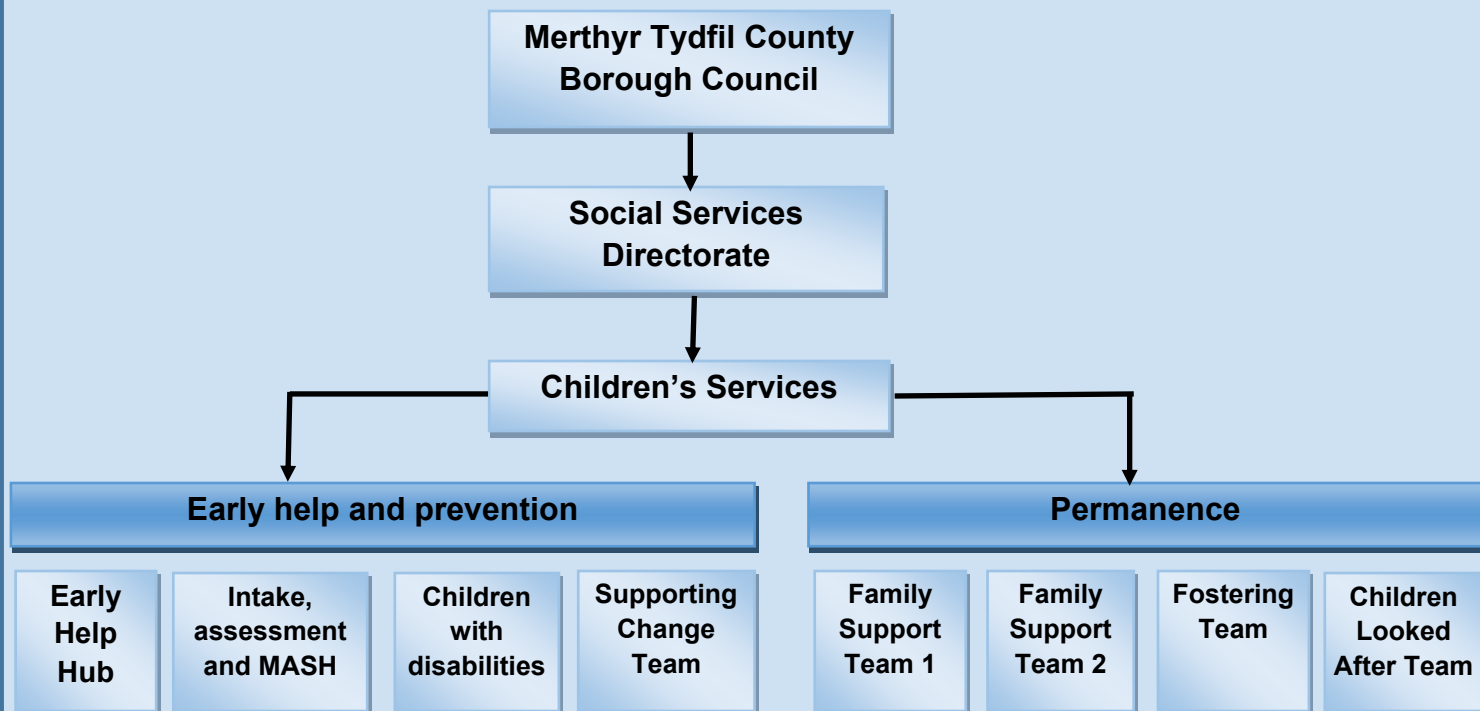


Factsheet: Structure of Children's Services



All families need some sort of help at times. Parenting is the hardest job anyone will ever do. Children's Services main aim is to support families to stay together safely. There is a lot of support available to you and we have explained what this looks like below and how you can get in touch.



Early Help Hub and Families First

Information about services that can support your family in lots of different ways like parenting support, youth support, health support, helping you find services like after school clubs and childcare. Anyone can give them a call on the Freephone number any ask for advice and support. [Link to EHH animation and leaflet](#)

Intake, assessment and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

Professionals, volunteers, parents, carers refer concerns they have about children's safety and wellbeing. Information is then gathered from agencies like schools, health visitors, GPs, Police and previous records of support from Children's Services to decide whether the child is in need of protection or in need of support. In most cases families will be referred to the Early Help Hub as they do not need a social worker. [Link to MASH/Intake digital clip and factsheet](#)



Children with Disabilities Team

The Team work alongside other specialist agencies like special educational needs support, Community Occupational Therapists and other Health professionals.

The purpose of the team is to assess children and young people with a disability and their families. This may be for the provision of adaptations, equipment, advocacy, advice or short break services. Carers are also entitled to an assessment of their own needs.

The Team covers the whole of the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough, working with children and young people from birth up to eighteen years of age when they transfer to Adult Services. The Team works in partnership with families, foster carers, voluntary organisations and other public services.

Family Support Teams

The Family Support Teams, along with other professionals, support families where there are safeguarding concerns that require longer term support. We engage with families to promote positive outcomes for children, working alongside their parents whether on a Care and Support or Child Protection basis. Working together we will aim to achieve your family goals to a point where you no longer need support from Children's Services and your needs can be met by other services like health and education.



The Family Support Teams would always seek to keep families together if it is safe to do so and our priority will always be achieving the best outcomes for children and young people. Supporting you as a whole family is really important to us.

Occasionally, we need to ask the Court to make decisions to support your child/children to be kept safe.



Supporting Change Team —The Team offers three services to families:

- For families who feel they are overwhelmed and need support with the more practical aspects of parenting there is the Outreach Service who work all year round and after normal working hours to provide tailored support to help families stay together. This includes working directly with children and young people as well.

- For those families that need a more intensive intervention that support parents to make and sustain changes in their lives, the Assessment and Intervention service

(SCAI) will work with families where alcohol, substances, mental health or domestic abuse might be affecting their lives and their ability to safely parent their children.

- The Family Time service provides advice and guidance during supervised sessions for children who are not living at home to spend time with their parents and other family members. They offer support with activities such as messy play, sensory activities, age and stage support and also encourage family cooking activities. They also support families where the plan is for the children to return home. Families may access more than one of these services as part of a package of support.



Fostering Team

Foster Wales Merthyr Tydfil work together with children's social workers to support children and young people when they are unable to live at home with their parents or other family members. Children and young people may live with a foster carer for a few days or longer. The team also assess and support family and friends who may be caring for relatives and are known as kinship carers. Each foster carer has their own social worker called a supervising social worker, who support them in their role and ensure that the

care they offer helps children and young people to achieve their goals. [Fostering in Merthyr Tydfil | Foster Wales Merthyr Tydfil \(gov.wales\)](#)

Children who are Looked After— [link to digital story here](#)

The Children Looked After team supports all children and young people who are looked after (this means that a Court has decided there needs to be an order like a care order) until reach 18. The children and young people may be living with parents, family members, foster carers or in specialist residential homes or supported living accommodation. We work closely with parents and carers, agencies such as Schools and Health to make sure all their needs are met and that they are safe and protected. We understand the importance of family time and have regular review meetings to make sure all children and young people are spending time with people important to them. Regular Children Looked After Review meetings are held that look at their plan and ensures the child has a voice in this. We are committed to ensuring that children and young people achieve their goals.



Care Leavers service

