Children’s Social Work Services have changed:

From the 26th October 20015, Children’s Social Work Services implemented their Team Around the Relationship model and moved to small social work teams, or ‘pods’, which support children from the assessment stage through the whole of their journey across social work services.

Why have we changed?

Children and families told us: that they want social workers who are honest and open and that they do not want to have to keep changing social workers.

Our social workers have told us: that they want to spend more time working directly with families, that they want to develop their expertise, and that they want reflective support and guidance.

We have, therefore, created our Team Around the Relationship model of practice to support social workers to build relationships with families that provide opportunities for families to change and which are also clear about the consequences if change cannot be achieved.

We believe this model will help us to support safe and stable family lives by:

- enhancing the experience of children and families
- developing the skills and satisfaction of our workforce
- improving the rating of our service against key performance indicators
- and, most importantly, safeguarding children by supporting the right child in the right place at the right time.
How have we changed?

Children’s Social Work Services have been re-designed into small ‘pods’, consisting of:

- 1 FTE Pod Manager
- Up to 2 FTE Senior Social Workers
- Up to 5 FTE Social Workers
- At least 1 Social Worker in Training
- Business Support Officer

There are 16 Pods which support children from the assessment stage through the whole of their journey across Children’s Social Work Services thus providing **continuity** for children and families. Each Pod will work in a collaborative way, so that children have a named keyworker but all the social workers in the Pod know each case and use their skills to support all of the children within the Pod and their colleagues to ensure families experience **consistent** social work involvement.

This sense of **collective responsibility** is also fostered by group supervision which will ensure that all cases are reviewed regularly to prevent drift or the needs of some children being lost due to the priorities for other families.

**What does this mean for other professionals?**

Other professionals working with children will benefit from the continuity and consistency provided by the Pods as this will facilitate information sharing, assessment and planning to meet the needs of children.

**How do I Make a Referral?**

If you are worried about a child and need to make a referral, you should still contact our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) who will continue to deal with all children’s safeguarding referrals. If a child requires a social work assessment following a referral this will be passed on to the pods by the MASH.

**Contact the MASH on 01273 290400 or Email MASH@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk.**