

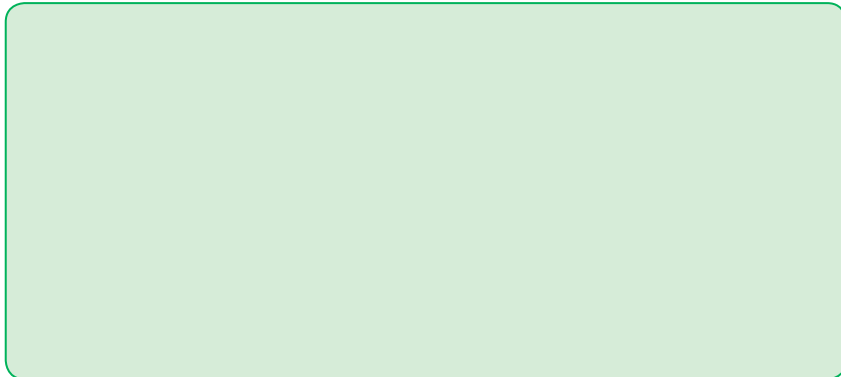
## About the NSPCC

We're here to end cruelty to children by fighting for their rights, helping them when they need us and making them safe.

Services like the Glasgow Infant and Family Team enable us to find the best ways to help children directly and then campaign for these services to be adopted UK-wide.

Through our work, children are better informed, better cared for and better protected.

## Contact details:



# Glasgow Infant and Family Team

## Information for professionals



A service for children in foster care and their families

## Information for professionals

The Glasgow Infant and Family Team is funded by the NSPCC. It delivers a new way of working with families who have young children in foster care.

The programme is based on evidence that very young children thrive in relationships where they receive warm, nurturing and responsive care. Secure attachments to primary care givers at this early stage are fundamental in promoting healthy and optimal brain development. Poor quality or significant disruptions to these relationships are associated with poorer health and wellbeing outcomes for children.

The **Glasgow Infant and Family Team** is made up of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and support workers. We work with birth families and foster carers, so that parents can develop better relationships with their children. Our support work and assessments can help streamline decision-making about permanent placements for young children, minimising disruptions to attachment relationships and promoting infant mental health.

## What we do

We help parents whose children are in foster care develop better relationships with their children. We support them to:

- understand the effects of their own early experiences
- recognise the importance of their role as parents
- learn ways to make sure their children are safe and protected.

We do this by providing:

- assessment and treatment to families who have children in foster care aged between six months and five years old
- therapy for parents, for children and for parents and children together
- developmental assessments for children
- transport to appointments.

If a family also has older or younger children in foster care, the programme may be able to help them in some way. Please ask us about this, when this situation arises.

## What happens during the programme?

A member of the Glasgow Infant and Family Team is assigned to each family. They assess the family's strengths and areas of concern and develop a tailored intervention for them.

The assessment process includes:

- interviews with parents about their needs and their relationships with their children
- videotaped observations of parents with their children
- questionnaires about parents' experiences.

The programme is designed to improve parent-child relationships and infant mental health. This may also involve supporting families through referrals to other services, coordinated by the team.

The assessment of the quality of the parent-child relationship and the extent to which our work has improved things shapes the advice we offer to anyone making decisions about the future care of the child.

## How we will measure success

The Glasgow Infant and Family Team is part of a research study called BEST, which will evaluate our work by measuring whether there is:

- an improvement in infant mental health and, subsequently, the health and wellbeing outcomes for children who have been in foster care
- a reduction in the number of placement moves for children
- a significant reduction in the maltreatment of children returned to their birth families, and of their siblings.

The principal measures will be infant mental health (including language and cognitive functioning) and the nature of the parent child attachment relationship. Information will also be collected about episodes of reception into care, child protection registration and hospital use.

## Wider learning

Part of the NSPCC's strategy is to develop best practice in child protection. We do this by testing services and gathering evidence about which programmes have the biggest impact. We will share our learning with others to ensure that children in Scotland and across the UK receive the best protection from child abuse and maltreatment.