

Welcome to CANW



Inspiring Lives, Changing Futures

Our mission is to support children, vulnerable young adults and their families across the UK, ensuring that when life presents difficult circumstances we're there every step of the way to provide or signpost support wherever it's needed.

Where we work

Much of our work takes place across the North West of England, including Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Cumbria, and in recent years we have expanded our geographic reach. We now deliver a range of services across the North East, Midlands and across several counties in the South.



Our story

Our history stretches all the way back to the founding of Blackburn Orphanage in 1886. A lot has changed since then, but many of the challenges facing those in need are similar today. We believe that everyone has the right to achieve their full potential, whatever their background or circumstances. We work with over 10,000 children, young people and families every year - supporting individuals, families and communities so that children and young people can lead healthy and meaningful lives.

Support our work

Each year Child Action Northwest makes a difference to thousands of children, young people, vulnerable adults and families across the country. We simply couldn't do this vital work without the support we get from hundreds of individuals and organisations across the North West and beyond. Over £5million a year is needed to facilitate our work. We raise some of this funding from a combination of generous charitable giving, corporate partnerships with local businesses, and mutually beneficial partnerships with local authorities and commissioning bodies. **THANK YOU to our wonderful supporters.**

If you would be interested in finding out more about our work and how you could get involved, please contact:

Michelle Dixon
(Strategic Director of Operations)
email MMDixon@canw.org.uk or
call 07585 440 686.

Family Services



Young Carers

We provide advocacy, one-to-one support and group activities to young carers and young adult carers aged 5-25 years old. We make sure that they don't feel alone and that they have somewhere to go and someone to talk to when things get challenging.

SPRING

SPRING (Separated Parents Separated Parents Resolution, Information, Navigation, Growth) helps parents learn how to communicate more calmly, clearly, and constructively, especially when emotions run high. Our SPRING programme offers separated parents structured, practical support so they can improve co-parenting, reduce conflict and create healthier, more stable arrangements for their children. The programme offers conflict-resolution support so disagreements don't escalate or negatively affect children.

PATH

Our Peer Advice to Transform Health & Wellbeing (PATH) project is a parent peer support group to help parents, families and carers whose children and young people are experiencing emotional or mental health problems, such as anxiety, low mood and depression, self-harm, eating disorders, sleep problems, suicidal thoughts and obsessions/compulsions.

Family Autism Service

Our Family Autism Service (FAS) service, in partnership with Spring North, provides comprehensive support to families, parents and carers with children diagnosed with or being assessed for autism. We offer Autism Awareness, 6 weeks autism course (Cygnet), Parent Support Group, Workshops, Family Activities, 1:1 support for parents/carers and information of local services to meet the specific needs of each family.

Our Voice

Our Voice offers therapeutic support to children in care. The project model was co-created with care experienced children and young people, offering diversionary activities to build rapport, trust and/or therapeutic interventions such as counselling, or cognitive behavioural interventions.

ICFA

Our Improving Child Family Arrangements (ICFA) programme offers families in court the opportunity to help agree safe, beneficial and sustainable child arrangements. ICFA aims to reduce barriers and resistance to agreeing arrangements and managing any risks so that these are safe, promote positive communication within families, ensure children's wishes and feelings are heard and considered and help families agree a Parenting Plan to avoid future issues arising.

PCT

Planning Together for Children (PTC) is a course that supports co-parents to think about the needs of their children first when they are working out how they can parent together, once separated. It supports parents to think carefully about what is in children's best interests and to do their best to work together to protect children against some of the harmful effects of parental conflict.

Contact Services

Our contact services team offers a range of family time services for families who need support or who are in court proceedings. We offer supervised contact, supported group contact and handover services across the week.

What young people say about our support:

"It's been brilliant and genuinely helped me so much. I wouldn't be where I am now without your help, I'm so grateful and my mental health has improved so much, thank you."

Age 16

"I've learnt that it's okay to ask for help. I'm proud of how far I've come."

Age 12

"Helped me stop worrying"

Age 7

Criminal Justice Support

Where a child or vulnerable adult has to attend police custody, sometimes their parents or guardians can't be with them.

The parent could be a witness, somehow involved in the case or unavailable for a variety of reasons. When this happens, an Appropriate Adult is needed to step in to listen and offer support as required.

The person in custody may have been involved in a range of complex situations, but as Appropriate Adults, we will always be there to listen, offer support and safeguard their statutory rights and entitlements.



Social Inclusion

We work alongside communities, police and young people to break the cycle between adversity and anti-social behaviour.

This might be through a combination of 1-1 support and education, focused group work, or simply fun activities that remove young people from potential harmful situations.

In addition, CANW works within Lancashire to offer group activities and 1-1 support to vulnerable adults and assist with education and careers.



Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Building emotional resilience in children and young people.

Emotional health and wellbeing are just as vital as physical health. Recent UK data shows that 1 in 5 children and young people (aged 8-25) are now facing a probable mental health condition covering anxiety, low mood, depression, or low self-esteem.

Our Emotional Health & Wellbeing team are dedicated in ensuring every child receives the emotional support they need and when they need it so they can thrive both personally and academically, grow into well-rounded adults, and navigate life's ups and downs with confidence.

We focus on early support that empowers them to manage life's challenges now and in the future.



We offer targeted support designed to:

Foster emotional awareness and personal resilience

Equip young people with coping skills for anxiety, stress, and low mood

Provide a safe space to process experiences and build self-esteem

Fostering



Children require care for a whole range of reasons, but what they all need is a family that provides love, support and stability.

"Being a foster carer with CANW is a vocation like no other."

Being a foster carer changes lives and we're proud of our long history of supporting young people in care and their foster families!

Whether it's for a few days, a couple of, or even multiple, months, sometimes years & fostering can make a huge difference.

It isn't a 9-5 job, so at CANW we provide support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We offer our foster carers practical support, activities, support programmes and educational guidance. We also provide specific, tailored training to help our foster carers become the best possible carer they can be.

As one of the few remaining charitable fostering agencies in the North we are also able to use fundraising to ensure our foster carers and the young people they support are given the same opportunities as their peers.



Residential Services

Our purpose within our residential Children's homes is to provide a warm, welcoming, nurturing and stable environment that offers therapeutic care.

This is designed to positively promote the wellbeing and safety of 'Cared for Children' and young people for whom residential care is the best option.

Our homes will have a Residential Therapist embedded within our highly skilled staff teams.



The Residential Therapist will contribute to the development and review of the young person's care plan, helping to identify a young person's needs and making recommendations that would focus on improving the emotional well-being and resilience of young people.



Young people do not choose to live in a residential home, so when they need to it should be the very best and CANW is determined to deliver residential homes that make a difference.