



Key Worker Schemes

Believe in
children
 Barnardo's

Introduction to Barnardo's

Barnardo's is the UK's largest children's charity and one of the most comprehensive providers of integrated health and social care services for children and young people, bringing over 150 years' experience of supporting the most vulnerable.

Promoting and improving child and family health and wellbeing is at the heart of our 800+ services. Since launching our first specialist counselling services 20 years ago, we now have 158 health services working in partnership with a range of commissioners including NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI), Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Department for Education (DfE) and Local Authorities (LAs) to deliver cost-effective and innovative integrated health and wellbeing support.

Our services operate right across the spectrum of prevention, early intervention, targeted and specialist support in a variety of place-based settings across geographical footprints.

Our offer

Since the first key worker pilot sites were announced in 2020, Barnardo's has played a pivotal role in the successful roll-out of key worker schemes, supporting some of the most vulnerable children and young people with a learning disability, autism or both. We currently deliver six key worker schemes across England. Some schemes are delivered at scale across multiple local authority boundaries within an ICS.

Key worker schemes are about transformational change. They are not only about supporting the young person and their family or carer network, but also about bringing together partners from across the system to drive significant change in the way we work together. Co-production is at the heart of all our models and we work with parent-carer forums and young people from day one.



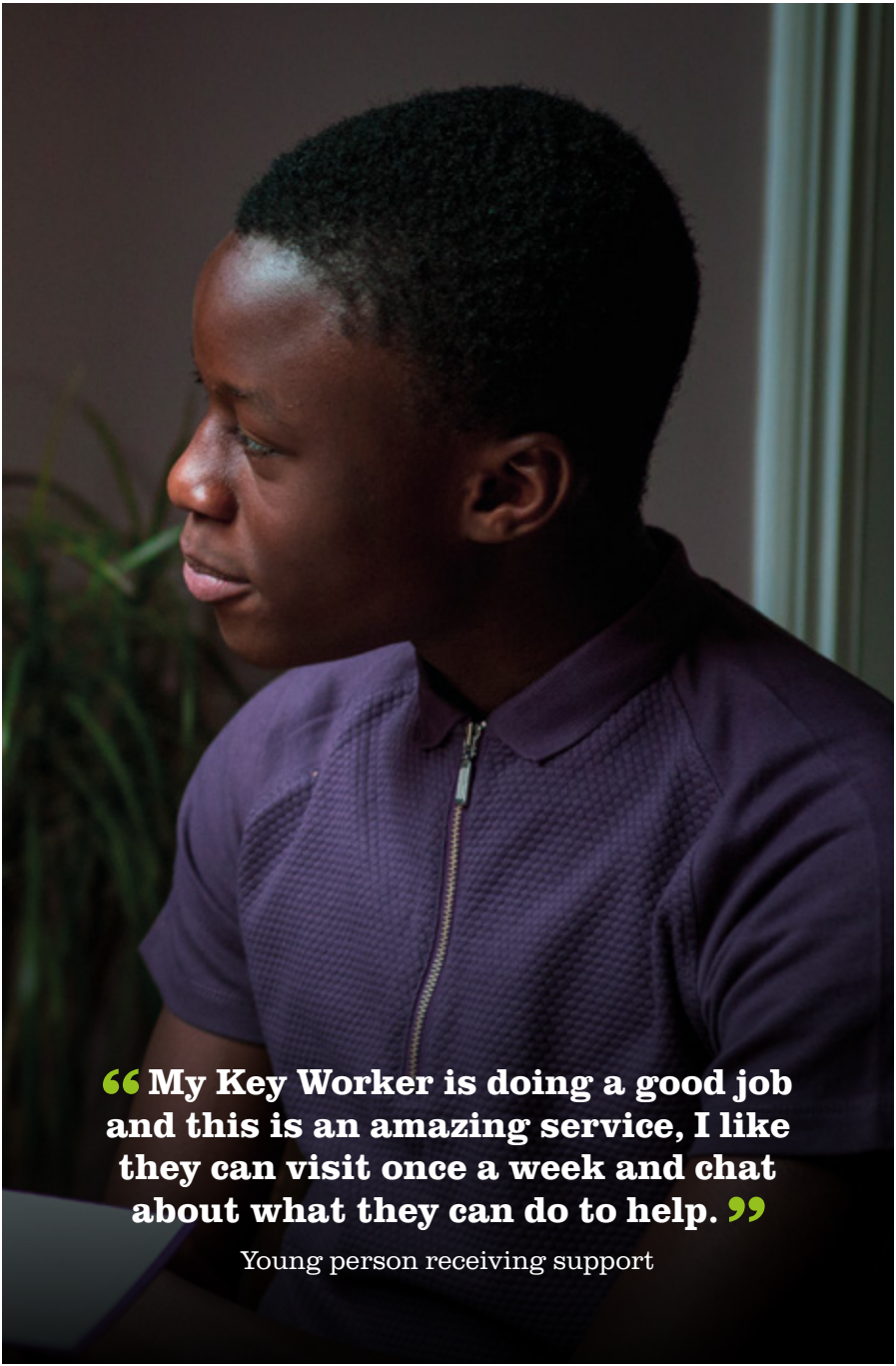
“ This doesn’t feel like a tick box exercise anymore. You are really listening to what we are saying. This is really encouraging and exciting. ”

Carer receiving support

Barnardo's can support ICSs to develop, and host, key worker schemes as well as other models of support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEND). As a voluntary sector partner, we can reach into communities, coproduce with families and young people, lead successful recruitment campaigns and provide expertise on child-centred models. In all our models we sit as part of NHS and LA governance structures, and as an independent voice, we can provide supportive and constructive challenge to the system.

The NHS Long Term Plan has made a very specific commitment to providing keyworker support for **some children and young people with a learning disability, autism or both**:

“By 2023/24 children and young people with a learning disability, autism or both with the most complex needs will have a designated keyworker, implementing the recommendation made by Dame Christine Lenehan. **Initially, keyworker support will be provided to children and young people who are inpatients or at risk of being admitted to hospital.** Keyworker support will also be extended to the most vulnerable children with a learning disability and/or autism, including those who face multiple vulnerabilities such as looked after and adopted children, and children and young people in transition between services.”

A young Black man with short, dark hair is shown in profile, looking towards the left. He is wearing a purple polo shirt with a zipper at the collar. The background is dark and out of focus, with a hint of a green plant on the left and a light-colored curtain on the right. The lighting is soft, highlighting his face and the texture of his shirt.

“ My Key Worker is doing a good job and this is an amazing service, I like they can visit once a week and chat about what they can do to help. ”

Young person receiving support





Case study

In Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland, our key worker scheme works with 3 family carer forums. We have 5 regular parents/carers represented on the key worker steering group. The Barnardo's team have focused on building trust and creating safe spaces for parents/carers. In a recent meeting, the forums wanted to raise an issue about the referral process in the Dynamic Support Register. Barnardo's staff supported them to have their voice heard and to positively challenge the CCG. They have felt like they have been listened to.

“ Often parents’ voices can get swallowed up by processes and raising our voices in large meetings can be daunting. It is very good working with Barnardo’s who can make sure our voice is raised. ”

Parent receiving support

To find out more

We'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch via healthteam@barnardos.org.uk if you would like more information.

www.barnardos.org.uk

Barnardo House, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG
T: 020 8550 8822

Barnardo's Registered Charity Nos. 216250 and SC037605 23021dos22