



One Minute Guide Coventry Family Valued

October 2025



What is Coventry Family Valued?

Coventry Family Valued is the practice approach that we use in Coventry Children’s and Education Services and within our wider Safeguarding Partnership.

Family Valued is a way of being – it’s how we work with children, young people, families and each other within our organisation and with other professionals.

Why Coventry Family Valued?

Family is the most under-utilised source of strength and support for most of the families we work with in Children’s Services.

Families know and understand their children best and have the love and motivation to support them to thrive.

Valuing family is key to rebalancing the role of the state within family’s lives.

How are we Family Valued?

Building effective, trusting relationships is the foundation of how we support families.

We approach the presenting need with compassion and curiosity.

We identify and celebrate the strengths within the family and their trusted people.

We offer both challenge and support to work through difficulties WITH families.

The Three Principles of Coventry Family Valued

Child Friendly Cov. Child friendly Cov is our aspiration to make Coventry the best place for children and young people and their families to live in. It is a city-wide approach that brings the council, businesses and voluntary organisations together to meet the pledges we have made as a city, to the children of Coventry. We believe that children and young people in Coventry should always: be and feel valued, be and feel safe, have opportunities, be and feel healthy and be and feel loved.

Family Led Decision Making. Families, networks, and communities are the greatest resource to support children and young people, and we need to empower and enable families to lead on the decisions which affect them and their children whenever it is safe to do so. It's about building trusting and respectful relationships, inspiring positive and sustainable change. Where relationships and networks are fractured or limited, we need to play a part in building them to ensure there is sustainable support in place. For most children, their outcomes will be better when they are living at home with their families and within their communities. Families need to be part of the solution to what is happening for them; we're recognising people as individuals, with unique strengths and capabilities, who are the experts in their own lives and experiences.

Relational Practice. It takes a lot of work to build relationships, particularly when families might be going through some of the toughest times they might experience together. We invest in relationships with children and their families, recognising this is key to achieving sustainable change. Relational Practice is also about how we work with other professionals, both within our service and with our safeguarding partners, so that we are all valuing children and their families and we focus on how we invest in relationships with and between families. We also want to really unpick how we as professionals can work in partnership with families to truly work together towards shared goals. At the heart of this is the need for children to be seen and heard and for us as partners to work together to strengthen their understanding of what is happening, any processes they are part of and who is best placed to support children and young people and how.

Our Relational Rainbow

Relational and restorative practice is how we build relationships to work WITH children, young people and their families, moving away from blame and shame and towards a better understanding of how we can create conditions for positive change.

Strengths-based and solutions-focused working means we build on the positives and work towards realistic and proportionate solutions.

Trauma-informed practice means we recognise that some behaviours and responses can be understood in the context of traumatic experiences.

Rethink Formulation is a tool for practice that can be used to help build a better understanding of the experiences and needs of children and their families using a clear, analytical model to support our thinking.

Elements of Signs of Safety utilised are strengths-based tools, such as words and pictures explanations, family-led safety planning and family network meetings.

Key Contacts and Further Information

Child Friendly Cov:

<https://www.childfriendlycov.co.uk>

The Relational Social Work Podcast:

<https://www.therelationalsocialworkpodcast.com>