# **Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance**

#### SCOPE OF THIS CHAPTER

This chapter outlines how the Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance aims to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and their families, and reduce the numbers of referrals and re referrals into Children's Services by further developing the links between Children's Services and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

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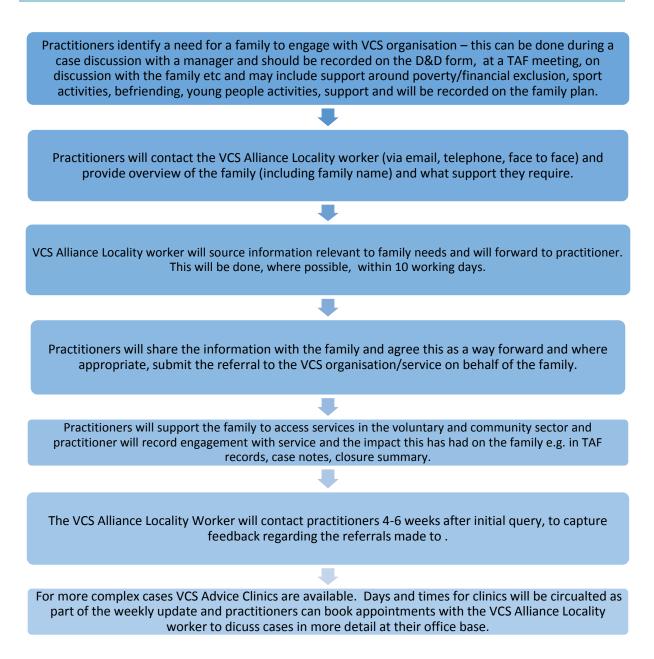
## 1.Introduction

County Durham benefits from a strong Voluntary and Community Sector who are often able to provide ongoing long term support at a local level that enables families to remain supported without the need of statutory services.

The Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance team provide direct support to frontline practitioners and Voluntary and Community Sector partners to work together to empower families and communities to achieve positive outcomes using the minimum necessary intervention.

The team consists of a countywide Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance Coordinator and four Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance Locality Workers (each aligned to the One Point/Families First locality areas).

## 2.To get support from the Team



## **3.Additional Support Available**

Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance Locality workers will attend Team meetings at least 3 times a year to update on the development of the Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance and share information for upcoming events and activities in a locality.

Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance Locality Workers can work with managers and practitioners to arrange guest speakers at team meetings from the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance Locality workers will share regular locality updates via e-mail to all staff once a week.

Practitioners can request general information from the Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance Locality workers, for example where are local toddler groups delivered, where are young people's activities delivered from, where are the local foodbanks etc.

The Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance team and frontline practitioners will work together to identify gaps in provision and possible solutions to better support children, young people and families.