



Issue 22 — April 2010

Newsletter

Promoting Children and Young People's wellbeing in Worcestershire.
Common Assessment Framework, Lead Professional and Information Sharing.
Visit the website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp

Meet Your CAF Coordinators!

Do you know a child with additional needs? Don't delay – talk to your CAF Coordinator for advice and support when deciding whether a common assessment would be appropriate.

Your area CAF Coordinators are:



Sarah McMorrow

Covers Tenbury, Wyre Forest,
Hagley and Droitwich
Tel: 01562 757867



Jeff Barnard

Covers Redditch and
Bromsgrove
Tel: 01527 556168



Donna Parker

Covers Evesham, Pershore,
Malvern, Martley and Worcester
Tel: 01905 765787

Don't forget to tell your CAF Coordinator if you intend to start a common assessment.

Welcome to the April 2010 edition of the Integrated Working Programme newsletter. There are some exciting new developments, such as Hidden Sentence Training, highlighting children and young people who have a parent in prison. Keep an eye on the website, www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp for training dates. Also, this week, myself, youth workers and connexions workers undertook CAF Card training which was thoroughly enjoyable. CAF Cards are a fabulous tool to work with young people aged 11 and above to engage with them and identify their needs in a fun and informal way, which can be used to inform a Common Assessment. We plan to roll out this training to the rest of the workforce in due course, so watch this space! **Jessica Glenn, Project Manager**





ContactPoint is now live in Worcestershire!

ContactPoint
because every child matters

Work is progressing well to roll out ContactPoint across the county. Following the successful accreditation of Worcestershire County Council Children's Services, training is now available to staff from within the organisation.

If you are interested in becoming a ContactPoint user, please go to the ContactPoint web pages to download and complete a User Registration Form as well as select your chosen training date (www.worcestershire.gov.uk/contactpoint)

Whilst training is only available to staff within Worcestershire County Council Children's Services at the moment, work is ongoing to provide training to other agencies in the near future. The accreditation of West Mercia Police is due for completion at the end of April 2010 and the PCT by the end of July 2010. Once these accreditations are complete, training will be publicised and rolled out across those organisations.

If you have any questions regarding ContactPoint or ContactPoint training please contact the Team at ContactPoint@worcestershire.gov.uk

Updated Early Intervention Budget Application

Please be aware that the Early Intervention Budget form has been updated! It now includes space for the professional requesting funds to supply 3 separate quotes.

Remember, the Early Intervention Budget is closely linked to the CAF process. It can pay for goods or services identified in the Common Assessment that will help to achieve a positive outcome for the child or young person.

All you need to do is complete the Early Intervention Budget Application form and send, along with a copy of the Common Assessment, to the area CAF Co-ordinator who will make a decision within five working days.

You can find all information, including the form itself at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp.

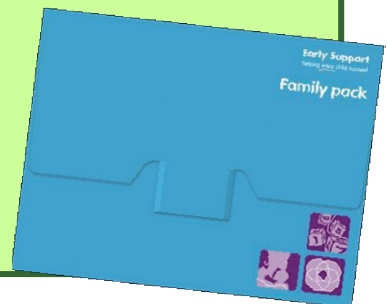
Early Support Training

Do you work with families who have a baby or young child with a disability or complex health need? Early Support can offer information, guidance and resources to ensure the best support for their child. Developed by parents, carers and practitioners, in response to their experiences, it aims to improve the way in which families and professionals work together by offering a parent led approach to decision making about the services that work best for the family and the child.

Why not ask the parents or carers with a child with a disability or complex health need you know, if they would be interested in attending Early Support training?

Early Support training is flexible and adaptable to meet the differing needs of participants, be they parents and carers, practitioners or managers. The course was developed with contributions from experts in early childhood, practitioners, parents and carers. Guidance and support materials accompany each element of the course which takes place in a comfortable and relaxed setting.

The course is 2 and a half hours long and is free of charge. For training information please email castraining@worcestershire.gov.uk or telephone 01905 766082.



Think Family Worcestershire

Think Family is a different approach to the way we work with children, young people, adults and families. As mentioned in the last edition of the IWP Newsletter, this project recently started in Worcestershire and is having success in engaging with adults' services, many of whom are already taking a family centred approach to the way they work.

A pilot is about to be launched using the existing CAF Coordinators as a single point of contact for practitioners within an adult service. The CAF Coordinators already informally offer advice and guidance to adults' services but this pilot will try to formalise a process that can then be rolled out across the workforce.

A simple flowchart has been devised that shows the process and explains what information needs to be gathered if an adults worker recognises the need for early intervention in relation to a child of the person that they are working with.

Richard Keble, Chair of the IWP Board, said "This pilot is about adults' and children's services working in an integrated way to support the whole family and achieve better outcomes for children and young people. It is about providing information about where to go and who to talk to if there are any concerns about a child or young person in the family, but it is not about a worker in an adults' service having to complete assessments on children and vice versa."

This pilot has been agreed by the IWP Board and endorsed by the Partnership Advisory Board (PAB).

For more information about Think Family Worcestershire, please contact Anne Williams on 01905 728855 or by email at awilliams4@worcestershire.gov.uk



Hidden Sentence training rolled out in Worcestershire

Did you know that there are approximately 160,000 children in England who are living in a family where one person is in prison? There is no exact figure as no records are kept on this potentially vulnerable group. A new course for Worcestershire is being piloted on 20 May to raise awareness of the issues that they may face.

Under the umbrella of Think Family, we are preparing to roll out this multi-agency training course called Hidden Sentence that is designed to raise awareness of the additional issues as diverse as bullying, isolation or negative impact on their mental health.

The training is intended for anyone who may come in to contact with this group, either directly through their work with children and young people or indirectly through their work with adults.

A group of practitioners from a range of agencies have received their training to deliver the course and are now ready to go.

The first course is on Thursday 20 May at Perdiswell Young Person's Leisure Club in Worcester and will run from 9.30 am until 4.00 pm. It is open to workers in both adults' and children's services who may come into contact with this group. But remember, you may not know about this as families may be reluctant to talk about the subject.

If you would like more information about the course, please go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp and follow the links to the Think Family training pages. If you want to book on the course please complete the application form and email it to awilliams4@worcestershire.gov.uk. Alternatively you can call Anne Williams on 01905 72 8855 and book your place on the course.



A quick guide to the projects within the Integrated Working Programme

- **The Common Assessment Framework (CAF)**, Lead Professional and Information sharing - helping us to identify children's needs and provide coordinated support. Training is available!!
- **The early intervention budget** is attached to the common assessment to use to purchase goods and services for families. Talk to your Area CAF Coordinator for further information!
- **Early Support** - materials for families with a child who has a disability/complex health need. Training is available!
- **Think Family** - a new initiative to build on the good practice around ensuring all members of a family have their needs identified to promote better outcomes for children and young people.
- **Ecaf** - the electronic system in development to share common assessment information securely.
- **ContactPoint** - the National database to help you find out who is working with a child / young person. Nearing implementation!

Book Your Training!

Don't forget to book your CAF training.

We now have dates available.

There are 3 different training sessions available

- 1 hour Briefing session

(**Or alternatively please try our e-learning package which will give you an excellent overview of the CAF process from the comfort of your own desk! If you would benefit from refreshing your knowledge around the CAF process, or would like to try out the e-learning package, please get in touch on the contact details below**)

- 1 day Practitioner training
- 1/2 day Manager/Supervisor training

For further information on the above courses, or to book places please

visit our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp or contact 01905 766082.

Access Centre Children's Team Questionnaire

The Access Centre Children's Team deals with all initial contacts to Children's Social Care Services in Worcestershire. Whilst we have taken action to try to make the service more responsive and effective, we are aware there is always room for improvement.

We are taking the opportunity to review the access and referral arrangements for Children's Social Care Services, and would be grateful if you could complete, or inform anyone within your Service/Organisation who has had contact with the Access Centre Children's Team to complete, the questionnaire which can be found at

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp-questionnaire

Siobhan Williams, Designate Head of Safeguarding & Services to Children & Young People

How has the Common Assessment made a difference?

"Gained clear picture of 'needs'. Co-ordinated approach great to determine who will do what. Reviewing plan and fine tuning where needed."

"It has enabled parents to gain clarity about their circumstances and provide a clearer picture around what exactly is happening, identifying factors that are affecting their situation and identifying areas for support to resolve their situation. It also enables the child/young person to take responsibility and be involved. It provides a structure to support."

"Following a Common Assessment the family received a cooker as part of the early intervention budget and therefore the family can now provide hot nutritious meals."

For more information or to become involved, contact Jessica Glenn, Project manager
Email: jglenn@worcestershire.gov.uk Tel: 01905 82 2025

For more information on the common assessment framework, lead professional & information sharing you can visit: www.everychildmatters.gov.uk



Children and Young
People's Strategic
Partnership