



Issue 7 - Dec 07/Jan 08

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

I hope you enjoy reading the December/January issue of the Integrated Working Programme newsletter. The programme encompasses the Common Assessment Framework, Lead Professional and Information Sharing. The training and implementation phase has begun! Don't forget to book your briefing session and appropriate training sessions! See the website (above) for the common assessment form and practitioner toolkit.

*Jessica Glenn,
Project Manager*

Number of staff across all agencies in Worcestershire briefed and trained so far (as at January 11th 2008):

**Briefings to
635
multi-agency
staff**

**178
multi-agency
staff CAF
trained**

Implementation phases:

Phase 1 – Tenbury, Pershore, Redditch – **Now Live!**

Phase 2 – Dec 07 (Worcester, Bromsgrove)

Phase 3 – April 08 (Wyre Forest, Hagley, Evesham)

Phase 4 – June 08 (Droitwich, Malvern, Martley)

'Live' means practitioners are trained and are now implementing the Common Assessment Framework.

Why are we doing this?

- To support better understanding and communication amongst professionals - in turn will help embed a shared language across agencies and services.
 - To reduce the number of different assessments - children and families telling their story only once.
 - To identify children and young people's needs earlier
 - To facilitate early intervention and speed up service delivery.
- = Better outcomes for children and young people

Worcestershire's First Common Assessment has been completed! (and more are now in progress with other families too)

The Professional: A Middle school staff member

The story: A child with emerging additional needs due to issues around health and education, impacting on their well-being.

How did it go? The Common Assessment has been completed after gaining consent from the parent. A co-ordinated support meeting has been arranged. The staff member is looking forward to agencies working together to meet the needs of the child.

How was it arranging the co-ordinated support meeting? It was arranged within the required timescale.

Was the CAF form straightforward? It was straight forward enough - a little long winded at times, but it helped identify the needs. Agencies were already working with the child but the Common Assessment process is helping to ensure there is co-ordinated support for the child - one plan, one child!.

Top Tip: Prepare - remember to read through the CAF form thoroughly before using it.

Comment from the CAF Co-ordinator: It's really good to see the Common Assessment process help a child and their family. Even though services were already involved, it has been really helpful to get agencies working together and ensure that support is co-ordinated to meet the child's needs effectively.



Briefings and training available for all of the children's workforce across Worcestershire

including Children's Services, Health, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Voluntary Organisations, Housing, Leisure Services, staff in Adult Services who work with parents, West Mercia Police, Youth Offending Service, Extended Services, Schools, Colleges, Young Persons Substance Use/Misuse Service, District Councils, Youth Support, Connexions and Early Years settings.....and so on.

You must book a place for all briefings and training. For a booking form go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp or contact cafraining@worcestershire.gov.uk



If you intend to start a common assessment, don't forget to tell your CAF Co-ordinator!

The CAF Co-ordinators are:

Sarah McMorrow covers Tenbury, Wyre Forest, Hagley and Droitwich Tel: **01562 757867**

Jeff Barnard covers Redditch and Bromsgrove Tel: **01527 556168**

Pete Holland covers Evesham, Pershore, Malvern, Martley and Worcester Tel: **01905 765787**

Feedback on the CAF process from other Authority areas

"It is the best way to get agencies together. Yes it takes time to do, but no more that if you were to call around all the agencies and keep them informed. Meeting in one place and one time is great. It is good to share information as part of a structured process and to be able to have parents so fully involved." **School Nurse**

"By completing a CAF and getting a full picture of Jane's needs and the agencies working with her, we were able to provide services much more effectively. Previously she was in contact with eight people, which involved a lot of duplication of effort and was overwhelming for her. By understanding her needs better we were able to reduce this to just three – with great results. She's much happier and has returned to education, learning new vocational skills. It might look like some of the new tools and processes may increase your workload but this example demonstrates how time can be saved by focusing efforts." **Support Worker**

Most popular query

Why do we need to have the Common Assessment Framework?

We all want better outcomes for children and young people and we all have a responsibility to meet children and young people's needs. Some children are being assessed and asked for the same information time and time again and others are having important needs overlooked because they fall between services. A more consistent approach to assessment will go a long way towards improving the situation. It also means a change in the way that we work to ensure that whenever we notice that a child or young person is not progressing as they should, that we do something to help at an earlier stage to avoid reaching a crisis point or problems becoming entrenched.

For further information or to become involved, contact Jessica Glenn, Project Manager

Email: jglenn@worcestershire.gov.uk Tel: 01905 72 8808

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