

Issue 21 - Jan 2010

**Early Support**  
Helping every child succeed

# 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](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp)**

Welcome to the January edition of the IWP newsletter! The Integrated Working Programme encompasses many initiatives aimed at promoting better outcomes for children and young people. It can become quite confusing with many different Government initiatives being developed. Hopefully this newsletter goes some way to making sense of those, and brings those together as part of the Integrated Working Programme as a whole.

So far we have:

- **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!

For any queries about the Integrated Working Programme please email

[jglenn@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:jglenn@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Jessica Glenn, Project Manager

## Early Support in Worcestershire

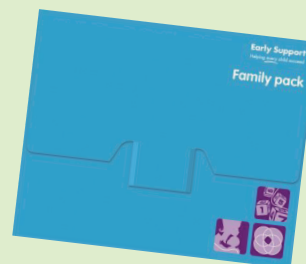
Early Support is a Government initiative to help and support families who have a baby or young child with a disability (but the approach can also be used with children of any age in Worcestershire). Early Support materials have been designed with parents and carers in response to their experiences and the aim is to improve the provision of information to families, and the way families and professionals work together.

For further information about Early Support please contact Deana Millward:  
[dmillward@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:dmillward@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Early Support Training

Training is available for all staff and parents to gain an understanding of Early Support. Staff who work with Children and Young People with a disability and/or a complex health need should attend the training. Also, any parent of a child or young person who has a disability/complex health need should attend the training.

The course is 2 and a half hours long and is free of charge. For training information please email [cafraining@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:cafraining@worcestershire.gov.uk) or telephone 01905 766082.



## The Early Intervention Budget

Have you completed a Common Assessment?

Would you like to buy goods or services to help children, young people and families meet their needs?

Then speak to your CAF Coordinator!!

The CAF Coordinators have a budget that can be used to help the needs of children, young people and families. If you complete a common assessment or you are a lead professional, talk to your CAF Coordinator about using this budget.

The budget is:

- Linked to the Common Assessment
- Designed to meet lower level needs as part of the early intervention/prevention agenda in Worcestershire
- Easy to access
- Part of the Integrated Working Programme

The Budget will be available up until March 2010, at which time it will be evaluated, so please make sure that you use it!

## Examples of Purchases Using the Early Intervention Budget

- Crib mattress
- Pushchair
- Linen
- Clothing
- Bed
- Furniture

## Think Family in Worcestershire!

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a process for practitioners to use to work with an individual child and take family circumstances into account. It is predominately used by the Children's Workforce and has introduced a shared assessment tool as well as a common language. A good common assessment will "Think Family".

The Think Family approach, introduced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), will be taken forward in Worcestershire by building on experience from the Common Assessment Framework. We want all staff who work with children and young people to consider the needs of the parents, siblings and the wider family. Also we want staff who work with adults to consider the needs of the children and young people in the family.

Worcestershire's introduction of Think Family is in its early

stages – a Project Officer was appointed in November 2009 and is currently meeting with partners in both Adult and Children's services across the County. This will show where partners in the County are already taking a family centred approach to the work that they do. A group is being established to bring together colleagues from adult and children's services across agencies to develop a consistent approach to Think Family in Worcestershire.



## Book your CAF training!

Don't forget to book your CAF training.

We now have dates available from January 2010.

There are 3 different training sessions available

- 1 hour Briefing session
- 1 day Practitioner training
- ½ day Manager/Supervisor training

Are we meeting your CAF Training requirements or is there something else you would like us to do?

Please let us know!

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

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp)

or contact 01905 766082

To become involved, please contact Anne Williams -

Tel: 01905 728855. Email:

[awilliams4@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:awilliams4@worcestershire.gov.uk)

For more information and to view the DCSF Think Family Toolkit go to:

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/thinkfamily](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/thinkfamily)



## CAF Evaluation

We are currently in the process of completing an Evaluation outlining the progress to date of the implementation of the Common Assessment Framework, and the impact it has had on outcomes for children and young people.

The purpose of the Evaluation is to provide evidence to identify the effectiveness and outcomes of CAF for children and young people in Worcestershire, including benefits and challenges faced.

Aspects of the Evaluation include looking at a selection of Common Assessments from each area and recording all relevant issues, who was involved and what the outcome was and the impact of CAF on specialist services.

So far the main reasons why common assessments are initiated are due to:

- 1) Child Behaviour – Home/Community
- 2) Child Behaviour – School
- 3) Parenting Issues

Some of the outcomes we have recorded so far include:

- Better settled at home & school.
- Medication taken as required.
- Established clear boundaries.
- Behaviour improved.
- Confidence & Self Esteem improved.
- Prevented a young person from becoming homeless.
- Socialising with peer group.
- Feeling safe.

Over 80 CAF practitioners have completed a survey based around the CAF process and the impact it has had on their roles, the family they have been working with and other factors such as how they were supported and what they would change about the process. Thank you to all those who completed this as your experience and feedback is invaluable.

Children, young people and parents/carers who have engaged with the CAF process have given their views via a survey on how it worked and what they thought could be improved. We are pleased with the replies received back as they will form an important part of the CAF Evaluation. All the replies have been entered into a prize draw and the winner will receive a £20 gift voucher of their choice.

## Parent Feedback!

### One parent's experience of the CAF Process:

"He wouldn't go to school. He had a phobia of schools, Doctor's - anywhere he felt he wasn't safe. I was with him 24 hours a day and couldn't work. There was nobody to help. I was climbing walls and on the verge of giving up. The CAF brought everyone together, put all the necessary support in place and so far so good! He's in school doing Maths and English lessons which is great! Everyone involved with the CAF has been brilliant! I don't know what I would have done without the CAF. I'm chuffed with the whole process!"

### Category Of Agency

| Category Of Agency              | No. of CAFs | %            |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Primary School                  | 58          | 12.2         |
| Middle School                   | 33          | 7.0          |
| High School                     | 65          | 13.7         |
| Voluntary Organ                 | 58          | 12.2         |
| Children's Services Directorate | 112         | 23.6         |
| PCT (NHS)                       | 48          | 10.1         |
| Acute NHS Trust                 | 3           | 0.6          |
| Borough Council                 | 11          | 2.3          |
| Out of school club              | 1           | 0.2          |
| Police                          | 10          | 2.1          |
| Nursery                         | 15          | 3.2          |
| Pupil Referral Unit             | 3           | 0.6          |
| Connexions                      | 28          | 5.9          |
| YISP                            | 2           | 0.4          |
| First School                    | 22          | 4.6          |
| CAMHS                           | 2           | 0.4          |
| missing data                    | 2           | 0.4          |
| Adult Services                  | 1           | 0.2          |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>474</b>  | <b>100.0</b> |

### Age Range of Child/Young Person

| Age Range    | No. of CAFs | %            |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 0 - 5        | 114         | 24.1         |
| age 6 - 9    | 100         | 21.1         |
| age 10 - 12  | 96          | 20.3         |
| 13 +         | 155         | 32.7         |
| missing data | 9           | 1.9          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>474</b>  | <b>100.0</b> |

### Gender Range of Child/Young Person

| Gender       | No. of CAFs | %            |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Male         | 293         | 62           |
| Female       | 172         | 36.1         |
| Unborn       | 9           | 1.9          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>474</b>  | <b>100.0</b> |





# 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

## **ContactPoint** because every child matters



ContactPoint is a quick way for practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child or young person, making it easier to deliver coordinated support. It is an online directory available to authorised staff who need it to do their jobs, enabling the delivery of coordinated support for children and young people. It is a key element of the Every Child Matters (ECM) programme, to

transform Children's Services by supporting effective prevention and early intervention. The programme's goal is to improve the health, well being and safety of all children.

The system is now live and those who need training across Children's Services and Partner agencies from February onwards will soon be identified.

If you are interested in having a briefing or learning more about ContactPoint, please email [contactpoint@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:contactpoint@worcestershire.gov.uk).

In the future this newsletter will only be available electronically.

If you would like to receive a copy via email, please let us know by emailing [Cafraining@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Cafraining@worcestershire.gov.uk)

For more information or to become involved, contact Jessica Glenn, Project manager

**Email:** [jglenn@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)



Children and Young  
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Partnership