



Issue 10 - May 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 am delighted with the progress that we are making with the implementation of the common assessment framework in Worcestershire. We are currently in Phase 3 of our training programme, with the final phase (phase 4) being completed by September 2008.

We are taking a measured approach to the introduction of common assessments, as in many respects, this is a new way of working for many practitioners and we need to do it well for children. We currently have 16 common assessments completed where the focus has been to ensure that the children and young people concerned received a holistic assessment of needs and coordinated support.

Early intervention makes a difference. In Worcestershire we are ensuring practitioners use the common assessment when it will make a difference to a child or young person. Increasingly the collective children's workforce should use the common assessment where it is important to understand the needs of a child or young person at an early stage. This will enable coordinated early intervention to prevent problems becoming entrenched or a crisis point being reached.

Work is currently going on to understand assessment pathways for children and young people and to consider where the common assessment would be most useful within those pathways. We have a clear project management approach towards a shared holistic assessment being widely used across agencies and services, promoting the ethos of families only telling their story once, and focusing on achieving positive outcomes for children and young people.

Richard Hubbard
Director of Children's Services
Chair of the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)

Number of staff across all agencies in Worcestershire briefed and trained so far (as at 1st May 2008):

**Briefings to
1198
multi-agency
staff**

**575
multi-agency
staff CAF
trained**

**16
completed
common
assessments**

Book your training!

Don't forget to book your training!

There are still spaces available for the phase 3 and 4 dates.

For further information, or to book places please visit our website

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp

If you are unsure what Common Assessment Framework means for you, please contact:

Jessica Glenn on **01905 728808** or
Kay Harris on **01905 766082** or email
cafraining@worcestershire.gov.uk



The Common Assessment Process in Worcestershire!

What difference can a Common Assessment make?

Feedback so far.....

"The common assessment process and identifying the Lead Professional was straightforward. Prior to the common assessment being initiated, school attendance was poor. Following the Co-ordinated Support Meeting the school has seen full attendance enabling the child to regain the educational ground they had lost. Early intervention has also prevented the situation escalating to legal action".

Headteacher, Worcestershire

Your area 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**



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

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

Look out for Common Assessment Framework events in June 2008!

These events will be short workshops feeding back to practitioners and staff around the impact of the common assessment framework in Worcestershire so far. It will give everyone a chance to reflect on our achievements and to consider ways in which the common assessment and associated tools such as the coordinated support plan, can help us to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Further details about the events will be circulated by email and will be posted on the website:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp

The 'Assessment Jigsaw' - Where does the Common Assessment fit in?

Throughout the children's workforce we use a number of different assessment processes. We need to consider how the Common Assessment (a shared holistic assessment) fits into our assessment processes.

So far, we have been working with schools, Youth Offending Service (YOS), Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP), Service Development Managers from Children's Services Directorate, Connexions, and the Primary Care Trust to consider where Common Assessment Framework fits in with current processes.

We will be in touch with your service over the coming weeks for further discussion and agreement around assessment pathways.

Take a look on the website (www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp) from **early June 2008** where you will see the assessment pathways. This will be useful to all staff in the children's workforce to ensure we have a shared understanding around assessment pathways for children and young people and that we embed the use of a shared holistic assessment framework.

If you want to become more involved in this area, or if you would like us to attend one of your team meetings to discuss further, please let us know (contact details below).

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

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



Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

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