



Issue 6 - November 07

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

The Integrated Working Programme is a major change programme which focuses on enabling and encouraging professionals to work together and to adopt common processes to deliver frontline services, coordinated and built around the needs of children and young people. Key elements are The Common Assessment Framework (CAF), Lead Professional and Information Sharing.

- The Common Assessment will ensure that a child or young person with additional needs only has to tell their story once.
- The lead professional will be one point of contact and co-ordinate a co-ordinated support plan.
- An information sharing protocol will ensure that information is shared appropriately and safely.

This is all about early intervention, better identification of need and better outcomes for children and young people. We will change the way we work together – coming together as a multi agency group to meet the needs of children and young people.

*Jessica Glenn,
Project Manager*

Number of staff across all agencies in Worcestershire briefed in phase 1 (Tenbury, Pershore and Redditch) so far (as at 20th Nov 07):

**Briefings to
518
multi-agency
staff**

**137
multi-agency
staff CAF
trained**

Where are we now?

We are in phase 1 (covering Tenbury, Pershore and Redditch) rolling out multi-agency briefings and training.

Future training phases:

Phase 2 – Dec 08 (Worcester, Bromsgrove)

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

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

All briefing and training dates and venues are now on our website.



Visit the website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp

What's on the website?

- The Practitioner Toolkit and related forms: The Common Assessment Form – Co-ordinated Support Plan Form - Co-ordinated Support Review Plan Form - Checklist for completing the Common Assessment process – Guide to completing the Common Assessment form - Pro-forma for written information to a Co-ordinated Support Meeting
- The Practitioner toolkit outlines procedures for staff around completing a Common Assessment, being a Lead Professional and around Information Sharing. All staff who attend practitioner and manager/supervisor training will receive a hard copy of the toolkit
- Training information and how to book (Information on briefings, practitioner training and manager/supervisor training)
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Contacts

Look out for additions including an example of a completed Common Assessment.



Who are the briefings and training 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.

Most popular query this month

How will professionals have the time to take on the role of Lead Professional?

The Lead Professional is a means of co-ordinating services to deliver better outcomes for children and families. Often, practitioners carry out the functions of the Lead Professional on an informal basis, perhaps because they know the family best or are most involved. Formalising the Lead Professional role will make the function explicit and understood. Managers in all agencies have agreed to provide support for their staff undertaking this role. In Worcestershire, the phased roll-out allows us to evaluate who is undertaking the Lead Professional role and any issues arising out of this.

CAF training rolls out across Worcestershire

And so it begins....

A multi agency training group is now delivering training sessions across the county. The full range of agencies and services working with children and families have been represented in these events. The local commitment to early intervention and prevention is demonstrated by the enthusiasm and participation levels in the sessions.

The Common Assessment is a way to support much of the good practice that already exists, empowering all of us who work with children and young people to intervene, support and help before a problem becomes entrenched or a crisis threatens.

Much can be gained from the training, an opportunity to use the CAF form, work your way through the accompanying guidance, understand the role of the Lead Professional and consider the principles underlying good practice in information sharing. All of this with colleagues from a range of disciplines and professional backgrounds which adds so much to the learning experience.

We're looking forward to seeing you on a training course near you!

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

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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**