

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

Welcome to the September edition of the IWP newsletter. It's so exciting that the momentum of the implementation of CAF is escalating. We are increasingly seeing evidence of how early identification of need, using the common assessment is empowering and assisting families and improving outcomes for children and young people. There is more work to be done to fully embed CAF but excellent progress has been made so far.
Jessica Glenn, Project Manager

How is CAF working in Worcestershire?

Many common assessments have been completed by various practitioners.
"I found the form straightforward and the tools gave good guidance." *Home liaison Support Officer*

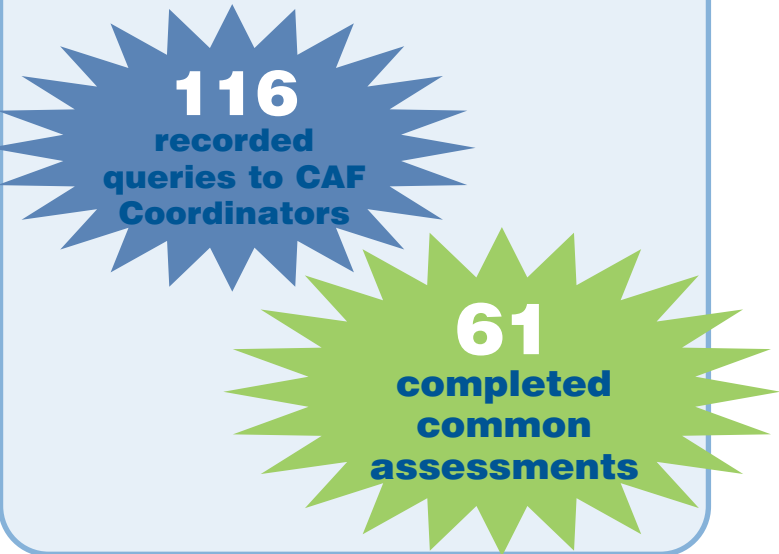
Many coordinated support meetings have taken place, resulting in solution focussed plans for children / young people.
"Worked well, good to get everyone on board"
Development Officer - Inclusion

There are many lead professionals acting as a key contact for families.
"I have been able to keep in regular contact with the parent, discussing each step of the plan"
Early Intervention Family Support Worker.

Your area CAF Co-ordinators are:

- Sarah McMorro** 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**
- Your CAF Co-ordinators will provide you with advice and support when deciding whether a common assessment would be appropriate.
Don't forget to tell your CAF Co-ordinator if you intend to start a common assessment.

CAF Statistics in Worcestershire as at 1st September 2008



Benefits of CAF

Bringing information together – By gaining a full picture of the child's situation it became apparent that there were more complex issues requiring specialist support. This is an example of where a common assessment helped to gather all information from different sources and provided clarity about the child's needs. The common assessment was then used to inform a request for a specialist service.

Parent Perspective:
"its good to know the help is about what I need, not what people think I need or should do"

Practitioner perspective:
"Great Idea, well put together and the support is there. Everyone is aware of what's going on" (Early Years worker).





Top Tips from Practitioners:

Below are some helpful hints from Practitioners who have already completed common assessments in Worcestershire:

“When booking a coordinated support meeting which includes staff from schools, aim to book the meeting for after 4pm”

Headteacher

“Stay solution focused in the coordinated support meeting – This enables an appropriate plan to be drawn up”

Home Liaison Support Officer

“When arranging the coordinated support meeting, give a number of dates to begin with and go with the majority, look at the key people who need to attend”

Headteacher

“Keep the coordinated support meeting small and focused”

Community Support Officer

“Ask your CAF Coordinator for support, even if it’s just for reassurance – it helps!”

Development Officer

Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF).

Children’s Social Care are keen to enable swift and easy referrals where a child may be in need or in particular, where there are safeguarding concerns.

The existing Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) has been revised and is now in line with the Common Assessment Framework (CAF).

To avoid having to duplicate work, the consent form on the MARF has been separated from the main assessment form, and can be attached to a Common Assessment (if consent is required) to support the referral to Children's Social Care.

There is new guidance to assist Practitioners with requesting a service from Children's Social care. Please visit <http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wcc-social-referral-css> for further details.

Worcestershire – an early adopter for the National Ecaf system!!

Worcestershire recently put in a bid to the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) with other Authorities in the West Midlands to become an 'early adopter' of the National Ecaf system - we were successful! This will give Worcestershire a chance to test and shape the new system, which when ready, will enable practitioners to share common assessment information quickly and securely via an electronic process.

Further details on this will be available in due course.

Book your training!

New dates and venues available on our website now!

Phases 5 and 6 training dates are now available for booking. Training is offered in a variety of venues across the County.

For further information, or to book places please visit our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp

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