

CAF Update

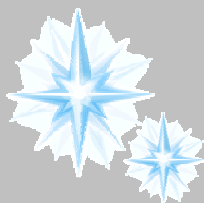
Common Assessment Framework

December
2010

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Every Child Matters
Change For Children



To book a place on either of these training sessions, please contact Georgina Jones in Workforce Development on: 527565

Welcome to the latest edition of the Common Assessment Framework newsletter. As usual, this edition includes articles by colleagues who are involved in the CAF process, as well as dates of future events and training sessions.

In challenging times like these it was very encouraging that the CAF process received many positive comments in the Ofsted Safeguarding Inspection report, following their visit to the Island in September this year.

Finding that 'early intervention provision through the use of the CAF is good and is increasingly effective in identifying and meeting needs', inspectors also remarked most tellingly that 'children and parents describe how the CAF has made a 'proper difference' to their lives.'

Although we still have some way to go, these comments and several others in the report highlight the effective development of interagency working on the Island, of which CAF is an important part. This is a tribute to everyone involved, and is undoubtedly leading to improved outcomes for children, families and young people.

Dates for your diary

CAF Panel Dates

These will continue on a monthly basis in each Locality.
Agendas and further information for each one will be sent out nearer the time.

West and Central Wight

Wednesday 12 January
Tuesday 08 February
Wednesday 09 March
Tuesday 05 April

South Wight

Wednesday 19 January
Tuesday 15 February
Tuesday 22 March
Tuesday 3 May

North East Wight

Wednesday 26 January
Wednesday 16 February
Wednesday 23 March
Wednesday 27 April

CAF/Lead Professional Support Groups

Thursday 13 January - West Wight Youth and Community Centre
Thursday 10 February - Cowes High
Thursday 31 March - West Wight Youth and Community Centre

Lead Professional Training / Full CAF Training

Lead Professional Training

These briefing sessions are aimed at practitioners from any setting who are currently taking on the role of the Lead Professional, or who think they might do so in the future.

Thursday 20 January - 15:00 - 17:30 - Cowes High School
Wednesday 9 February - 09:30 - 12:00 and 14:30 - 17:00
Sandown Youth Centre

Thursday 17 February - 09:30 - 12:00 & 14:30 - 17:00 - Ryde Youth Centre

Full CAF Training

Monday 31 January - 09.30 - 16:00 - Ryde Youth Centre
Monday 28 February - 09.30 - 16:00 - Training Room, Pyle Street
Wednesday 6 April - 09:30 - 16:00 - Sandown Youth Centre



Hampton Trust Launch their brand new Programme - LINX

The Hampton Trust, a charity which at its heart works to resolve violence, conflict and social isolation, launched their latest project, **LINX** at the British Red Cross in Newport.

The event was attended by representatives from a variety of services from the voluntary and public sector.

Steve Beynon (Chief Executive of the Isle of Wight Council) was in attendance and said 'Supporting young people who have experienced violence and/or abuse is vital if we are to address something that has a long term effect on their future lives. **LINX** offers a fresh and innovative approach which engages young people and helps them move forward. It has already made a dramatic difference to the lives of young people here on the Isle of Wight.'

LINX is a 12 week, single gender group programme aimed at young people aged between 12 to 18 years of age, who may have experienced domestic violence or are showing signs of challenging behaviour.

LINX is being delivered across the Island, for Middle schools and High schools and the Wessex Youth Offending Team with funding from the BIG Lottery.

If you are interested in a **LINX** group in your area, or would like more information please contact your **LINX** Isle of Wight Co-ordinator, Toby Eaglen at Toby.Eaglen@hants.gov.uk or on 01983 522799/07958783050



The Bays Children Centre



The Bays Children Centre currently have 22 open CAFs within their reach area, not all of which are held in lead professional capacity. For us to monitor the numbers within the locality we share information with the CAF coordinator enabling us to ensure that all data is up to date on EStart.

The professional relationships we have within our community have enabled us to complete CAFs on those families that perhaps in the past may have refused an assessment of need. By working in partnership with Health Visitors, Midwives and Cally Wareham we have been able to complete joint home visits and as a result ensure the CAF has been initiated at the earliest possible point of need. By sharing input to the CAF process the family's stories are comprehensive and accurate, which has in turn been reflected in the support identified as a result of the panel.

Our relationship with the locality coordinator is vital in our ability to ensure that those open to us as lead professionals receive a strong support package. This resulted in us being able to initiate additional support quickly and efficiently, including the funding of pre-school placements, food vouchers and the installation of a stair gate for a family with learning difficulties.

The Children's Centre have supported the local Gatekeeping panel to signpost individuals to access Fathers First promoting positive parenting and relationships. This process allows us to ensure that those individuals who may not usually be identified as a parent are able to access information on rights and responsibilities. Our solid processes are proving to be productive and efficient in providing those families in our community with the best possible start in life.

Macala Graham – Deputy Manager – Bays Childrens Centre

The Lead Professional Role

As everyone is aware, Lead Professionals are key to the success of the CAF.

This extract from the guidelines which have been developed on the Island summarises the main aspects of the role. Further information will be available at the Lead Professional briefings, which are now being arranged in each Locality (see page 1):-

What is a Lead Professional?

Where a child or young person with multiple additional needs requires support from more than one practitioner, the lead professional is someone who:-

- acts as a single point of contact who the child or young person and their family can trust, and who is able to support them in making choices and in navigating their way through the system
- ensures that they get appropriate interventions when needed, which are well planned, regularly reviewed and effectively delivered
- reduces overlap and inconsistency from other practitioners

Evidence from practice suggests that the lead professional role is a key element of effective frontline delivery of integrated Childrens' Services. It ensures that professional involvement is rationalised, co-ordinated and communicated effectively.

More importantly, it provides a better experience for children, young people and their families involved with a range of agencies.



The CAF Skill Set.

We are developing a series of training modules to support practitioners involved in the CAF Process. These modules are designed to improve competence and confidence for people from across the workforce to successfully engage in undertaking Common Assessments, contributing to a CAF Action Plan, or taking on the Lead Professional Role. The 'Skill Set' modules will start to appear in the integrated training programme in the New Year and we will keep you updated through the CAF Newsletter.

On top of the CAF Training and the Lead Professional Briefing, which will continue to run into 2011, the other sessions that have been identified are:

- Undertaking Assessments;
- Using Analysis as part of Assessments;
- Recording & Report Writing;
- Engaging with Hard to Reach Families.

If you can think of any other modules you would like to see, then please let us know.

The Lead Professional Briefing.

We have now started delivering the short Lead Professional Briefing which we have delivered in each locality now. These are just a short introduction to the LP Role that aims to support delegates to:

- Understand the rationale for the lead professional and how the lead professional supports integrated working;
- Understand the vision, functions and accountabilities of the lead professional;
- Have an overview of how a lead professional is selected and of the skills required to be a lead professional;
- Have an overview of the recommended context and management framework for lead professionals.

Locality Coordinators and Workforce Development will continue to deliver this session around the Island in the New Year with confirmed dates as follows (see page 1).

Achieving Multi-Agency Excellence.

As a response to the messages from various Serious Case Review reports, we are rolling out three one day workshops across the Island, titled 'Achieving Multi Agency Excellence' with special focus on CAF Assessments. Leaders and Managers from across the agencies entrusted with safeguarding children on the Island are being invited to attend one of the workshop events; with the intention of making significant & measurable improvements in communication and collaborative working across the Isle of Wight.

We have assumed that between us all, we certainly know what the problems and obstacles are but more importantly, between us, we also know the solutions. We have engaged an experienced facilitator who will work with us in a solution focused way to elicit that knowledge, and develop an action plan for effective multi agency excellence on the Island. **To book a place leaders and managers should contact Georgina Jones at Workforce Development: 527565. Workshop dates below....**

Wednesday 26 January - 09:30 - 16:30 - Sandown Youth Centre

Thursday 27 January - 09:30 -16:30 - North East Wight (venue tbc)

Friday 28 January - 09:30 - 16:30 - Workforce Development Centre, 114 Pyle Street

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our training sessions in the near future.