Early Help Overview

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So what is “Early Help”?

‘Intervening early and as soon as possible to tackle problems emerging for children, young people and their families or with a population most at risk of developing problems. Effective intervention may occur at any point in a child or young person’s life.’
A brief history of time...

Prevention & Early Intervention Strategy is launched

2010
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Election
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- **2011**: Huge readjustment in response to systemic change
- **Election**
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- 2011: Huge readjustment in response to systemic change
- 2011: Publication of Allen Report, Munro Review, Field Review and others… RIOTS!
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2012/13
Refresh of P&EI Strategy and reframing into “Early Help”, aligned to emergent Government priorities

Election
Statutorily

• Working Together 2013 puts requirement on LSCB to assure itself of the effectiveness of Early Help provision.

• No duty on individual agencies (and taken away from schools!), but expectation there and in OfSTED framework
H&WB Strategy

Links to all priorities, but specific strong links with:

- Dependence to independence
- Aspirations & expectations
- Prevention & Early Intervention
Continuum of Need

Continuum of Needs
(Commonly known as The Windscreen)
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Children’s Centres, PRUs, Targeted Family Support, IYSS, School Nurses, CSE, EWS, Health Visitors, Early Support, CwD Outreach etc.

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Pathways to whole family EH

- CC working with 0-5
- Targeted Family Support working with primary aged children
- IYSS working with teenagers/young adults
- CDT Outreach working with SEN
Role of EHAT

• To provide coordination of step downed contacts from CART
• To be a central point of contact for families requiring EH
• To broker services where required
• NOT to replace localism, but support where this isn’t in place.
EH Challenges

- Predominantly unqualified workforce
- Many issues underpinned by adult mental health (mild to moderate)
- If it works, social care need never become involved
- Linked into broader societal context e.g. welfare reform
- Often about case management
- NOT social care aftercare!
Trends

- Schools disengaging from lead working, but need is still there.
- Interdependent with other provision e.g. CAMHS, EPS, CDC etc
- Early Help is part of a wide ranging system: where one or more areas of support are reduced, the impact on the whole system needs to be assessed.
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FfC Provision

- Providing **connectivity** (not duplication) of existing provision, or new provision where gaps are identified
- Evidence based
- Co-working where required with existing services
- **Only** for families with poor attendance and ASB or worklessness
- Little overlap with, PRUs, Parenting etc
- Subject to rigorous PbR scrutiny and challenge from audit and DCLG.
- FRP focused on most complex cases (social care).
Continuum of Needs
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Where’s the Gap?

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Causal Factors

- Reduction in services and/or Service re-design
- Limitations of existing initiatives (e.g. Families for Change)
- History of chronic, long-term neglect
- Insufficiency of planned, facilitated step-down
- Where to go for challenge/support?
Early Help Support Panel

A multi-agency forum, where:

- services can be commissioned and where innovative, fast-track approaches can be tested
- The quality of multi-agency work can be assured and challenged, where required
- Support for families can be brokered
What we value

Localism, and the capacity, trust and freedom of local services to provide effective early help within their own communities wherever this is possible.
What we know

- We are not yet providing excellent, integrated early help services.
- Some services are commissioned and/or delivered by the “centre” and not community based.
- We do not and will not unite early help provision under one management line or organisational umbrella (nor should we).
- The system is being pushed apart.
- Practitioners WANT to succeed, though they need help and better awareness of pathways to access this.
- Social Care are a key partner, and the way this interfaces with Early Help providers is in constant need of review and revision.
Questions?