

# PROFILING TOOL FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

**Tracey Nurse, Service Manager Social Care**

**Shelley Nicholls, Service Manager Youth Offending Team**

**November 2011**



**Nottingham  
City Council**

# BACKGROUND TO THE PROFILING TOOL

- Following a serious case review, it was established that there is a need to have a process for identifying the most vulnerable children in care. This is with the expressed aim of ensuring that service provision is targeted effectively to meet their needs given their higher levels of vulnerability
- Children in Care will have vulnerabilities but there are a smaller number amongst the CIC population who present significant challenges to a number of agencies since they have multiple vulnerabilities which place them at greater risk. These children and young people require extra scrutiny and support to ensure the service provision is adequate to meet their needs and reduce risk
- A profiling tool has been developed by the Task and Finish group and is currently being piloted to see how effective it is in profiling risk and targeting intervention in order to reduce the risk
- Guidance has also been produced to assist professionals in completing the profiling tool

# KEY INDICATORS OF RISK

- Suicide attempts
- Absconding
- Missing from Care
- Inappropriate relationships with older people
- Lack of positive family contact
- Substance abuse
- Taking Without Consent
- Bereavement
- Multiple placements
- Not eating/Over eating
- Gang culture (knives, weapons, drug dealing)
- Prolific offending, sexual offending, animal harming
- Sexual exploitation



# KEY INDICATORS OF RISK

- Doesn't access mainstream services, isolated, detached
- History of family suicide, mental health problems
- History of complex sexual abuse
- Historical abuse but no ongoing intervention from services.
- Arson
- Child has witnessed extreme levels of violence
- Exposed to family issues from an early age - serious drug misuse, prostitution, adult mental health, domestic violence
- Children who come to the attention of professionals late but have had a history of abuse.
- Gender issues
- Child has been the subject of multiple strategy meetings



# BENEFITS OF USING THE PROFILING TOOL

- Contributes to the provision of a more effective service for the most vulnerable young people in care since it raises their profile and ensures there is a robust support plan in place which is closely scrutinised and reviewed as appropriate
- Process assists in reducing and managing professional anxieties since the multi agency group will be part of this process, directly involved in completing the tool and in securing resources where appropriate to do so

# BENEFITS OF USING THE PROFILING TOOL

- Highlight points of difference in relation to how a child's profile may be viewed and this again offers an opportunity to communicate across agencies and creates a space in which to develop a shared understanding of the young person's vulnerabilities and needs
- Gives a "voice" to professionals who have concerns about a young person, providing a platform on which to evidence risks and vulnerabilities. It is likely that the most concerning children in care can be identified without necessarily using this tool, however the evidence base gives the professional group a stronger voice and thus one which is more likely to be heard

# WHEN TO USE THE PROFILING TOOL

- The profiling tool should be completed when the social worker or members of the professional group believe the risks to the child are high. The tool can be triggered in the following meetings:
  - 72 hour review
  - 20 day review
  - 3 and 6 monthly reviews
  - Discharge planning meetings
  - Strategy Meetings
  - Secure Panels
- Once the tool has been completed and shared with all relevant agencies, it should be reviewed at all the Looked After Reviews in order to determine if the risks have been effectively managed and reduced as a result of targeted intervention and support



# SENIOR MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT

- There will be multi agency meetings chaired by Service Manager or equivalent every 2 - 3 months.
- The purpose of these meetings will be to ensure senior managers from all partner agencies are aware of the child and the high risk nature of the case, ensuring management oversight is present in all CIC deemed high risk.
- This offers further scrutiny and provides another opportunity to consider the support package and if the right level of support and intervention is in place for these children/young people



# PILOT: OUTCOMES SO FAR....

- Small number have been profiled and reviewed by the senior management group.
- Small number triggered and met criteria for ongoing profiling

## Outcomes:

- Use of welfare secure. The tool assisted the multi-agency group in raising the profile and ensuring regular meetings took place. This allowed for evidence to be gathered.
- Joint work with CAMHS/SW team and External placement provider which has served to improve working relationships and create a shared sense of the risks.

# NEXT STEPS...

- **Presentation to the CIC Council**
- **Presentation to Corporate Parenting Board**
- **Agreement for implementation of Guidance and Profiling Tool.**