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| Title of paper: | COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (CAF) TARGETS REPORT | |
| Report to: | Children's Partnership Board | |
| Date: | 26 th January 2011 | |
| Director(s)/Corporate Director(s): | Candida Brudenell , Director, Quality and Commissioning, Children and Families, Nottingham City Council | Wards affected: |
| Contact Officer(s) and contact details: | Mandy Smith - CAF and Lead Professional Manager Nottingham City Council mandy.smith@nottinghamcity.gov.uk | |
| Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) objectives(s): | | |
| Safeguarding and Early Intervention - Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective support and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties | | ✓ |
| Strong families - More families will be strong and healthy, providing an enjoyable and safe place for children to grow up | | ✓ |
| Healthy and positive children and young people - Children and young people will be healthier, fitter, more emotionally resilient and better able to make mature decisions | | ✓ |
| Achievement - All children and young people will leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and will be ready for work or further learning | | ✓ |
| Economic well-being - Child poverty will be significantly reduced | | ✓ |
| Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users): | | |
| <p>This report is in response to the previous report presented in November 2010 and offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional clarity in relation to setting Partnership CAF targets for specific groups of vulnerable children. • Recognises exceptions categories • Offers estimated numbers for target groups (where obtainable) • Explores options for implementation of the targets • Supplies current data in relation to outcomes recorded • Information about outcomes for Children and young people, via case studies will be circulated to the Senior Officers Group as requested following the meeting. | | |
| Recommendations: | | |
| 1 | Consider and adopt the recommended target groups for CAF assessments | |
| 2 | Consider options for implementation and make recommendations | |
| 3 | That the Children's Partnership ensure that their agencies support monitoring of the target groups by providing statistical data in relation to their CAF activity, including naming a Senior Officer responsible for doing this. | |
| 4 | Identify any immediate support / actions required to support implementation of the targets. | |

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

(Explanatory detail and background to the recommendations)

The Senior Officers Group agreed to explore a more prescriptive approach to CAF by agreeing target groups of children and young people. At the November meeting of the Senior Officers Group target groups were proposed. Discussion explored capacity issues with the recommended groups which led to a request for:

- The suggested targets to be refined, with further clarity and recognition of exception categories
- Options for implementation in a graduated way
- An indication of numbers to help establish impact on capacity
- Information in relation to outcomes

In response to this the following information is offered.

Refined Target groups:

Recommended targets for Senior Officers Group to agree are:

- All children who are **permanently excluded** *
- All children who reach statutory trigger for being **persistently absent** where Education Welfare Service is automatically notified*
- All children who **receive 2 or more fixed term exclusions in a 6 month period** where there is a history of challenging behaviour, non engagement or where patterns of behaviour are emerging.**
- All children who are on the **Early Support Programme**
- All children **managed through family support** (level 2 & 3) at Children's Centres and MALT
- All **teenage parents** aged 17 and under
- All children receiving **targeted youth support** through the Challenge and Support Team***
- All children prior to request for statutory assessment of Special Education Needs (SEN) process. ****

It is also recommended that further targets are shaped and set by April 2011 in relation to children who:

- **Use substances problematically** (ideally prior to accessing treatment services / as part of treatment plan and to support exit strategy.) *
- **Experience domestic violence** (e.g. when assessed as medium risk using the Risk Identification Form)*
- **Are young carers** (e.g. when accessing young carers support)
- **Are in homeless accommodation** for more than 6 months

The relationship between CAF and specialist services must be clarified; it is recommended that targets are also worked up for this, including:

- A percentage of children who's involvement with the Youth Offending Team (YOT) ends
- A percentage of children who are referred to social care and a percentage following involvement with social care

*Exceptions those who are already open to Children's Social Care, YOT, Family Intervention Project, or open to specialist CAMHS with a Care programme Plan; or where it is an absolute one off incident where no previous concerns exist.

** Exceptions those pupils whose exclusions are an absolute one off incident triggered by an automatic fixed term exclusion i.e. swearing at staff, or smoking on school premises.

***Exceptions, where a pre assessment has evidenced that no further support is required.

****Exceptions where a child/ young person has been suffered sudden debilitating illness or accident, e.g. a road Traffic accident; or newly arrived in the country with very obvious and profound disabilities.

Agreeing and enabling targets in these areas will strengthen our early intervention approach and further encourage agencies to embed the CAF assessment as their key assessment tool; thus avoiding delay and promoting a holistic approach.

As highlighted in the previous CAF report agencies do not always see the need to do an assessment when they believe they only need the support of one other agency to meet need. This means they are working with symptoms and the root cause of the difficulty is not established; consequently the window of opportunity for early intervention can be missed and needs accelerate rather than decrease. Setting some of these targets will support earlier intervention.

Recommendations of the Children's Workforce Training and Development Review also have a bearing on this debate with the suggestion that to really '*develop and embrace CAF it has to become the main form for recording and identifying needs for all agencies, replacing other internal documentation*'

Comments from the Senior Officers Group in relation to these refined targets are invited.

Options for implementation

Option 1

- Use the targets as grouped above as priority groups for implementation with an:
 - Immediate group
 - Secondary group (six months time)
 - Third group (12 months)

Option 2

- Where the Target is 100% (mainly the first two groups) agree a target date for full implementation and work back with markers, i.e.
 - April 2011 50%
 - July 2011 75%
 - Oct 2011 100%

Option 3

- Using all groups agree from this point forward all children and young people who reach the triggers defined will be supported with the CAF. CAFs will not be done retrospectively unless current provision is failing to address need or provide co-ordinated support. (This should include parental views as to whether things are working for them).

Example: The CAF team have already met with the Education Welfare Service and agreed a plan for implementation using option 2, combined with an early intervention selection criteria aimed at addressing issues at the earliest opportunity and avoiding further deterioration.

Option choice may be dependent on target group or main service area delivering on them.

Estimation of numbers

Numbers for all categories are being worked up; some key areas are outlined below:

- All children prior to request for statutory assessment of Special Education Needs (SEN) process

| Year 2010 - 2011 | Average per month across Nottm |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Quarter One | 12 |
| Quarter Two | 7 |

- Are young carers** (e.g. when accessing young carers support)

| Period | Total number in receipt of support | Average per month |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Oct 2009 – Sept 2010 | 101 | 9 |

- All children who reach statutory trigger for being **persistently absent**

Example of an individual Education Welfare Officers case load

| | |
|---|----|
| Total number of referrals for half term one | 28 |
| Number with existing CAF | 3 |
| Number open to Social Care | 1 |
| Number open to FIP | 3 |
| Number already improved since trigger hit | 9 |
| Number requiring a CAF | 12 |

- All children managed through **family support** (level 2 & 3) at Children's Centres and MALT

| Time Period | Total number of referrals across the city | Total for South Locality (6 centres) | Total for North Locality (6 centres) | Total for Central Locality (5 Centres) |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Weekly meeting 26/10/10 | 29 | 10 | 14 | 5 |
| Weekly meeting 02/11/10 | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Weekly meeting 08/11/10 | 31 | 6 | 12 | 13 |
| Weekly meeting 16/11/10 | 25 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| Full 4 week period | 100 | 41 | 49 | 48 |
| Average per centre per week | | 7 | 8 | 10 |

N.B Data supplied by Family and Community teams access panel, some of these children will already be open to Children's Social Care so will not require a CAF.

- All children who are **permanently excluded** *

| Term (2009/10) | Primary (issued by city schools) | Primary (city pupils attending county schools) | Total | Secondary (issued by city schools) | Secondary (city pupils attending county schools) | Total |
|----------------|----------------------------------|--|-------|------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Autumn | 3 | 0 | 3 | 18 | 5 | 23 |
| Summer | 3 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 8 | 27 |

- Children receiving **2 or more fixed exclusions** in a six month period

| Term (2009/10) | Primary (number of pupils) | Primary (number of exclusions issued) | Secondary (number of pupils) | Secondary (number of exclusions issued) |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Autumn | 79 | 114 | 271 | 341 |
| Summer | 86 | 108 | 265 | 359 |

As the number issued is greater than the number of children it would indicate some children are receiving more than one.

Information in relation to CAF Outcomes

Since we began recording CAFs on a central data base including early pilots in late 2006 to beginning of November 2010

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Total number of CAFs initiated | 1390 |
| Total closed | 750 |

Main reasons for closure:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Needs met | 253 (34%) |
| Transferred into social care | 163 (22%) |
| Reduced to single agency support | 73 (10%) |

66% closed with a positive outcome

The previous meeting also made a request for some case studies to demonstrated positive outcomes achieved by the CAF. Three case studies have been written up and will be available for circulation following the meeting.

CAF / Integrated Working Regional Standards

A set of proposed minimum standards for processes around the CAF has been developed by the Joint Regional Improvement and Efficiency Plan (JRIEP) regional working group. These standards will now be presented to each Children's Partnership by the Directors for Childrens Services for consideration and adoption. To support the implementation of these standards the CAF regional working group will continue to meet and develop a selection of tools to aid this. Nottingham City will continue to be part of this work.

Performance Management

If targets are to be set it is important that we then monitor these target groups and check compliance. Last year the Senior Officers Group agreed in principal the implementation of a

performance management framework; implementation of this has proved difficult, getting agencies to collate the data when they often don't have systems in place to capture it, or there is no responsible officer to formulate and submit a report. Work in this area now needs to be considered in line with regional developments in relation to a Regional CAF Quality Standards, and any targets set. This work will be a priority for the Integrated Processes Board over the next six months. All partner agencies **need to identify a named worker who the CAF team can link with who will be responsible for CAF Performance Management in their agency** and who will support with quality assurance activity. The CAF team will contact Senior Officers after the meeting to collate names

2. RISKS

CAF numbers may not increase without a more prescriptive approach.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Some of the regional standards do have financial implications in terms of administration resources to collate and manage quality assurance processes, e.g. audit activity. Other regions have facilities for central storage and information management systems. The CAF team will work up a budget outline required for 2011/12

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications.

5. CLIENT GROUP

The Common Assessment framework is relevant to all children, young people and their families.

6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

Implementation of the CAF gives us an equitable approach to dealing with the identified needs of our vulnerable children and young people

7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

The Common Assessment Framework is a cross-cutting theme, which when implemented successfully would contribute to all outcomes and priorities of the Children and Young Peoples Plan.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs) by Agency: Quarter 3 2010/11

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Adult Services | 1 |
| NCC Adult Services | 1 |
| Children's Services | 67 |
| Alternative Learning (PRU) | 2 |
| Childrens Centres | 39 |
| Education Welfare Service | 2 |
| MALT - CEPS | 2 |
| MALT - Community CAMHS | 2 |
| MALT - Family Support | 1 |
| MALT - Targeted Youth Support | 5 |
| Play worker | 1 |
| Social Care | 11 |
| Special Educational Needs | 1 |
| Youth worker | 1 |
| Connexions | 1 |
| Connexions | 1 |
| Health | 13 |
| Health Visiting | 10 |
| Midwifery | 2 |
| Other - GP, Physiotherapy, etc | 1 |
| Schools | 46 |
| Academy | 1 |
| Primary School | 29 |
| Secondary School | 14 |
| Special School | 2 |
| Unknown | 1 |
| Unknown | 1 |
| Voluntary Sector | 3 |
| Voluntary Sector | 3 |
| Total Number of CAFs = 132 | |

Total Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs) by Agency
(April 2008 - December 2010, inc. earlier pilots prior to launch)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Adult Services | 9 |
| NCC Adult Services | 1 |
| Nottingham City Homes | 6 |
| Notts Health Care Trust (A Not C) | 2 |
| Children's Services | 519 |
| Alternative Learning (PRU) | 26 |
| Behaviour Support Team | 9 |
| Childrens Centres | 279 |
| Education Welfare Service | 38 |
| Family Intervention Project | 8 |
| Historical service (Asy / Tra) | 3 |
| Inclusive Education Service | 3 |
| MALT - CEPS | 8 |
| MALT - Community CAMHS | 38 |
| MALT - Family Support | 1 |
| MALT - Targeted Youth Support | 5 |
| Play worker | 5 |
| Portage worker | 14 |
| Social Care | 34 |
| Special Educational Needs | 18 |
| Youth Offending Team | 10 |
| Youth worker | 20 |
| Connexions | 3 |
| Connexions | 3 |
| Health | 271 |
| Family Nurse Partnership | 12 |
| Health Visiting | 195 |
| Hospitals | 3 |
| Midwifery | 28 |
| Other - GP, Physiotherapy, etc | 11 |
| School Nursing | 21 |
| Sexual Health Service | 1 |
| Police | 12 |
| Police | 12 |
| Private / Community | 12 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Private Nursery / School | 12 |
| Schools | 581 |
| Academy | 12 |
| Further Education College | 1 |
| Independent School | 1 |
| Primary School | 383 |
| Secondary School | 182 |
| Special School | 2 |
| Specialist CAMHS | 4 |
| SPECIALIST CAMHS | 4 |
| Unknown | 1 |
| Unknown | 1 |
| Voluntary Sector | 61 |
| Voluntary Sector | 61 |
| Total Number of CAFs = 1473 | |