

CAF

Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

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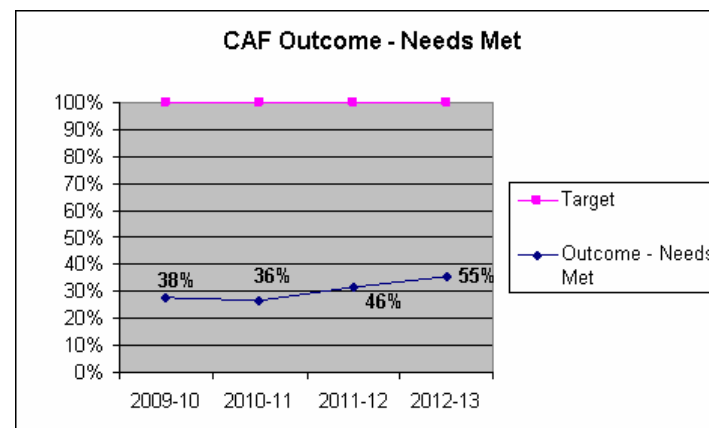
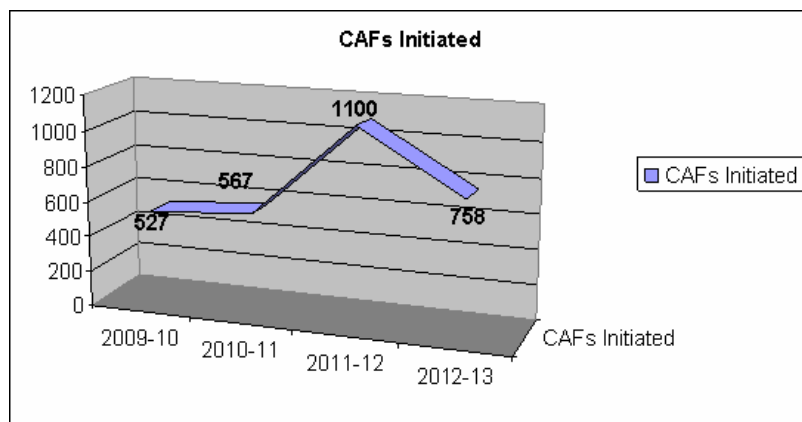


The Importance of the CAF for the Partnership

- CAF is a fundamental element within the Nottingham Children's Partnership Family Support Strategy and Pathway
- Essential function to delivering the Partnership's agreed family support priorities
- Clear commitment through Strategy's strategic actions for CAF to be the main recording tool by services for intervening early and preventing problems
- Numerical target within the Strategy to increase the number of CAFs
- *Framework for the inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children* requiring:
 - - evidence of the impact and analysis of CAF assessment activity over the last 12 months
 - - evidence of any QA activity, case audits 6 months prior to inspection

Current CAF Activity and Outcomes

- The number of CAFs initiated has increased since 2009-10 (527) and 2012-13 (758). There is a clear upward trend in the numbers initiated, but with a spike in 2011-12 (1100). This is linked to a data cleansing exercise.
- There is evidence of year on year improvement of the percentage of CAFs closed due to **needs being met**, increasing from 38% in 2009-10 to 55% in 2012-13.



Between 2009-10 and 2012-13 there has also been a decrease in CAFs closed due to referral to Children's Social Care, with 16% in 2012-13 compared with 23% in 2009-10.

Recommendations for future action: 1. Self Assessment Review (SAR)

- **Family Support Strategy in final year of implementation, prior commitment to review the success in achieving key delivery priorities.**
- **CAF was identified as fundamental in the Strategy to achieving key early intervention delivery priorities**
- **SAR will be themed around the partnership's engagement and use of CAF in achieving delivery priorities**
- **SAR will be sent across the partnership through the Family Support Strategy Implementation Group and Head Teachers for completion on line.**
- **SAR will be accompanied by CAF activity data for 2012/13 for specific agencies to use to inform their self assessment**
- **Timeline for activity:**
 - **Distribution of SAR 1st July**
 - **Proposed completion and return date 19th July**
 - **Proposed date for analysis of findings completed 9th August**
 - **Findings and recommendations to be reported back to Partnership Board at appropriate date**



Recommendations for future action: 2. Data Cleansing

- Need for CAF Central Records to accurately reflect levels of activity to support both delivery of the Family Support Strategy priorities and Inspection / Regulatory Frameworks.
- Volume of CAFs contained on CAF Central Records likely to be under-reporting actual levels.
- Issue of accuracy of CAFs on Central Records with a number indicating they have been open for over 2 years (longest open case over 5 years)
- Data cleansing exercise to be undertaken through local authority over July and August, contacting all lead professionals for “open” CAFs
- Agencies to use CAF activity data sent with SAR to identify issues of under-reporting and initiate on central records

Recommendations for future action: 3 Future CAF Reporting

- **Need to re-establish regular CAF reporting to the Children Partnership Board, to raise both profile and importance, and to increase partner engagement with central records processes**
- **Need to make reports available more sophisticated, increase the interface between them to enable the partnership to capture and understand need and impact, including at an agency level**
- **Need to develop the information inputted onto CAF central records to further understand need and impact. For example:**
 - **Currently only capturing primary reason for initiation, there is capacity to capture secondary reasons on the systems**
 - **Currently only capturing lead professional by worker, so not able to report by agency/school**

Recommendations for future action: 4 e-CAF solution

- CAF central records only ever seen as interim solution to capture activity across the partnership
- e-CAF solution required that can overcome current operational barriers to enable better information sharing across partners, better management and performance reporting, and increase efficiency through appropriate self service access
- Establish partnership working group to develop high level e-CAF service specification to meet the needs of Nottingham Children's Partnership
- Proposed specification to presented back to the Children's Partnership for agreement