



FAMILY SAFEGUARDING MODEL



West Berkshire
COUNCIL



July 2017– Newsletter No 1

Background to the Programme

The Family Safeguarding Model (FSM) is a whole system change to how child protection services is delivered. It was first implemented in Hertfordshire following their successful Innovation Fund Bid and involved creating multi-disciplinary teams with additional specialists, recruiting staff to reduce workloads, training staff in Motivational Interviewing, as well as a structured approach to risk assessment.

In April 2016, the DfE announced further funding and an Expression of Interest to extend the evidence base from FSM was submitted in May 2016 by Hertfordshire to scale up the model to four additional Local Authorities, Luton, Peterborough, West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest.

In early 2017, Bracknell Forest Council was allocated £1.9m and West Berkshire Council was allocated £2.1m from the innovation fund and both councils will work together under one Programme Management process to implement the model over a two year period from October 2017. Within West Berkshire, the Pilot Programme will focus on cases within the Locality Teams.

Link to the Family Safeguarding Hertfordshire evaluation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-safeguarding-hertfordshire-an-evaluation>

Next Steps

The implementation of the Family Safeguarding Model is now under way, there was a slight delay, due to Ofsted Inspections having taken place in both LA's during May 2017.

Lorna Hunt, Chief Officer of Children's Services at Bracknell Forest Council and Mac Heath, Head of Children Services, with the support and programme management from Anne Marie Ali (FSM Team), are now moving forward with the innovation project.

The Multi Agency Executive Partnership Board met in July 2017 and are looking at how we work together to build our new Family Safeguarding Teams.

Children's Services and our Partner agencies are in agreement, that through implementing the Family Safeguarding model in Bracknell Forest and West Berkshire, we will improve outcomes for the children and families who are at the highest risk due to domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse.

We will be involving a wide range of staff from within Children's Services and staff from our partner agencies, such as Public Health, Health, Probation and the Police, throughout the programme to reform our service. We will be changing our practice with the use of core skills, utilising techniques of Motivational Interviewing which has a coaching methodology at its core and having group supervision in the targeted cases.

We will collect data on key performance indicators and will be formally evaluated over the next two years by York Consulting, for the Department for Education.

Information Event

On the 27th September 2017, Practitioners from Hertfordshire will be joining us to showcase the model of working at Easthampstead Park Conference Centre.

Please join us at **one** of the sessions, either the morning (10-12.30) or afternoon (1.30-4.00) sessions to see the model in action and meet the practitioners at the centre of the innovation. Many of you have already signed up. Please let Mandi Davis know if you would like to attend.

The programme currently consists of four workstreams with specific leads.

ICT/Practice Tool	Mairead Panetta, Rashida Baig and Stephanie Paulett
Performance & Evaluation	Peter Hodges Stephanie Paulett
Workforce Recruitment	Mairead Panetta
Learning & Development and Communication	Rashida Baig
Budget	Lorna Hunt Mac Heath

RECRUITMENT

Adverts will be out shortly to recruit social workers and family support workers. In addition to this substance misuse workers, domestic abuse and mental health workers will be recruited. If you wish to register an expression of interest please email us on FSM@westberks.gov.uk.