

NI 68

NI TITLE: Referrals to children's social care going on to Initial Assessment

LAA PRIORITY

DELIVERY PLAN

DATE 2009

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Delivery Partnership

There is no delivery partnership as the key deliverable is within Children & Life Long Learning, Vulnerable Children's Division.

Document control

Version 1 Last updated Date

1. OBJECTIVES

What the plan is seeking to achieve? Please include details of the people and places it will affect, linking it back to the persuasive rationale.

- 1.1 The plan is seeking to ensure that the referrals that come into the service are appropriate and requires social care intervention (level 3 of the multi-agency Thresholds framework). If there is a high % of referrals that become Initial Assessments and are not closed at the point of referral, this would suggest that referring agencies are making appropriate referrals.
- 1.2 The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a national framework used by all professionals to identify and meet need at the earliest stage- thus preventing needs escalating and referrals to statutory agencies being required.

2. IMPACTS (Equalities and Vulnerable Groups)

Who is the activity intended to affect/benefit? Who else might the activity impact one? Please consider factors such as age, gender, religion, race, sexuality, disability. If there is likely to be a negative impact, what actions will you take to mitigate against this?

- 2.1 This affects all children and families referred to children's social care across the County. The rationale for placing this indicator in the LAA Indicator set was that GOWM expected Staffordshire to include an indicator in respect of assessments due to previous poor performance. This particular indicator takes a wider view of interagency performance and is not just a social care process indicator but gives some focus on quality of services and the relationships between services. This includes the implementation of the Common Assessment Framework across all agencies working with children in the County.

3. ACCESSIBILITY

Are the activities set out in the plan, accessible and inclusive? Have you considered the barriers to access? How will you overcome these barriers?

- 3.1 The activities in the plan are primarily related to monitoring of referrals, CAF monitoring and in the continued implementation of the Thresholds model. Therefore there are no barriers to access however, it is likely that some agencies will be unhappy when referrals they make to social care are not progressed to Initial Assessment and are closed at the point of referral.

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY

Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, all local authorities, police authorities and other agencies must consider crime and disorder reduction and community safety in the exercise of all their duties and activities. How have you met this requirement in developing this plan?

4.1 Not relevant in this case.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE

How have you considered the impact the activities in this plan may have on climate change?

5.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this plan.

6. SUPPORTED PLANS

Please specify the plans to which you are going to add value in delivering this (please include the title of the plan, the organisation responsible for delivery, the lead officer and timescales)

1. Children and Lifelong Learning Thematic Improvement Plan
2. Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)
3. CAF Implementation Strategy

7. ACTION PLAN

Actions	Completion Date	Lead Officer and Organisation
7.1 Monitoring of the numbers of referrals and % going on to Initial Assessment	On-going	Sarah Piggott
7.2 Monitoring on a monthly basis targets for CAF at a district level	On- Going	Jill Gregory
7.3 Continue to provide Multi Agency CAF Training for all agencies in the Children's Trust	On-going	Jill Gregory
7.4 Assessment Framework Training for all Social Work Staff	On-going	Kim Aldridge
7.5 Communications to all agencies in respect of the Children's Trust/SSCB Thresholds Model	On-going	Georgina Davies

8. DELIVERY PROGRESS

Actions	Measure (M) and Performance (P)
7.1 Monitoring of the numbers of referrals and % going on to Initial Assessment	M . P .
7.2 Monitoring on a monthly basis targets for CAF at a district level	M P
7.3 Continue to provide Multi Agency CAF Training for all agencies in the Children's Trust	M P
7.4 Assessment Framework Training for all Social Work Staff	M P
7.5 Communications to all agencies in respect of the Children's Trust/SSCB Thresholds Model	M P

9. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

9.1 The agreed target for this indicator is as follows;

NI No. 68	NI Title: Referrals to children's social care going on to Initial Assessment		
Baseline (Year & Source)	Targets		
	Yr 1 - 2008/9	Yr 2 - 2009/10	Yr 3 - 2010/11
<i>2007/8 79% (CYP reporting template)</i>	79%	80%	85%

Notes

1. The data is taken from the Source and timing of updates.
2. Basic description of rationale for targets.
3. Information about disaggregated targets:

Locality	Baseline (Year)	Targets		
		2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Staffordshire				

Outstanding Issues

4. Any other important information

9.2 The agreed proxy measure for this indicator is as follows;

NI No.	Proxy NI Title		
Baseline (Year & source)	Targets		
	Yr 1 - 2008/9	Yr 2 - 2009/10	Yr 3 - 2010/11

Notes

1. The data is taken from the Source and timing of updates.
2. Basic description of rationale for targets.

4. Information about disaggregated targets:

Locality	Baseline (Year & Source)	Targets		
		2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Staffordshire				

10. COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

10.1 In relation to actual delivery of the indicator the third sector currently will have no role. However the role of the third sector in terms of the implementation of the CAF is critical

- CAF is to be integrated into the commissioning arrangements for third sector projects especially in relation to individualised budgets for children with disabilities
- Third sector organisations are being involved in the training programme for CAF free of charge
- Third sector organisations will be part of the Team around the Child meetings and will be a key partner in agreeing the support plans for children and families where appropriate

11. CONTRIBUTION TO THE LAA

11.1 This indicator will impact on and support the following indicators with the LAA:-

Strong, Safe and Cohesive Communities – NI 32 NI 156 and NI 110

Improved health and sense of wellbeing – N1 39 and N1 40

12. RESOURCES REQUIRED

12.1 The Social Work Teams- primarily undertake the majority of the Initial assessments, they are equipped to do this as a core duty. The additional demands on the service following Lord Laming’s Progress Review of Safeguarding following Baby P, has placed considerable pressure on the service and increased demand. The capacity to meet this demand will need to be continually reviewed.

12.2 Identification of use of Area Based Grant to contribute to delivery of this plan

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(linked to sections 6 and 7). ?

12.3 Identification of additional resources required to deliver this plan (linked to section 6 and 12).

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

Key Risks	Mitigating Actions	Delivered by	Completion Date
<p>12.1 There has been a significant increase in the number of referrals to the service following Baby P- the capacity to complete assessments within the timescales is under considerable pressure and this is likely to continue</p>	<p>Additional resources have been made available both in the first response service, who take the referrals and in the Safeguarding services.</p>	<p>Staffordshire County Council</p>	
<p>12.2 Lord Laming's Progress report has been produced following the death of Baby P. We await the Government response- due at the end of April However it is anticipated that there may be comment on reasonable workloads for Social Workers, and this may impact on the capacity to complete initial assessments</p>	<p>We will continue to monitor capacity to meet the needs.</p>	<p>Staffordshire County Council</p>	