

September 2017 – Newsletter No. 2

Family Safeguarding Model Launch - 30th October 2017 – Newbury

West Berkshire will be launching the Family Safeguarding Model (FSM) on the 30th October 2017. We will be changing our methodology of practice and will be utilising new skills and techniques learnt from training in Motivational Interviewing - which has a coaching methodology at its core, as well as conducting a model of group case supervision for all cases.

Motivational Interviewing Training

Alasdair Cant & Associates have been selected to deliver the Motivational Interviewing training for West Berkshire Children and Family Services. An introduction day is taking place on 4th October for the all staff in the Service area. There will be opportunities for demonstration, discussion, and questions, conducted in ways that model the principles of a motivational skills approach. All staff directly involved with FSM have been invited to attend a 2 day course over the next couple of months and those indirectly involved will be offered a 1 day course.

Alasdair Cant is the Director of Alasdair Cant & Associates since its incorporation in 1997. He is an Advanced MI Practitioner, originally trained by Catherine Fuller and Phil Taylor as part of the East of England Probation Training Consortium. He has since delivered well over 750 days of successful MI training across a variety of settings and specialism. With a background in teaching and as a training manager with Westminster Social Services and national drugs charity Release, Alasdair has worked as a highly respected accredited behaviour change coach, trainer and facilitator. He brings an extra dimension to MI training through long experience in the areas critical to Safeguarding such as Alcohol/Substance Misuse, Mental Health and Domestic Abuse, as well as developing management and teams. He is particularly interested in collaborative ways of building resilience among families and communities that may be harder to reach. His approach is dynamic, creative and highly empathic.

FSM Evaluation

We will be progressing the evaluation of the FSM Programme at West Berkshire with York Consulting (YCL) as selected by the Department for Education. <http://www.yorkconsulting.co.uk/>

YCL is a leading economic and social research consultancy who will be imminently meeting with managers across Children's Social Care at West Berkshire as well as our performance management colleagues. Together with us, they will be collecting data on key performance indicators and will be formally evaluating the programme over the next two years.

A robust evaluation of the Hertfordshire Family Safeguarding Model has recently been published and is available online

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

Recruitment Update

The implementation of the Family Safeguarding Model is under way, and all of the work streams are meeting regularly to progress key areas of work.

West Berkshire have been successful in recruiting a Social worker and Family Support Workers for our new teams. Other roles for Domestic Abuse Workers, Performance Analysts and Business Support will be out to advert shortly. In addition work is taking place with Berkshire Health Foundation Trust to recruit Mental Health Workers and a Clinical Psychologist and Swanswell Substance Mis-use service have adverts out for recruiting Recovery workers roles.

The Family Safeguarding Workbook

Hertfordshire have developed a FSM workbook which will be developed into our own database systems over time. We anticipate this will be ready for use sometime next year. We will, however be adopting the principles and applying them to our current recording methodology and this will be discussed more fully in Team meetings

