

## Safeguarding Early Adopters programme

### Learning example

#### Early Adopter: Trafford

Learning theme: Addressing local practice challenges – domestic abuse

#### Introduction

Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Board as part of the early adopter programme prioritised addressing a local issue of reducing the impact of domestic abuse on the population of Trafford. The proposal is the reduction of child protection re-plans whereby domestic abuse is an identified risk, through the introduction of a transition worker specialising in domestic abuse to engage with families as part of their transition to child in need.

#### Background, aims and objectives

Trafford ended the year in March 2018 with 29% of plans that started in the year being a second or subsequent episode. Recently published national data shows this to be one of the very highest proportions in the country.

The impact of this on children and their families is that they may be supported at a more intense and intrusive level than they require. It can also be confusing for families to move up and down the thresholds of intervention (e.g. from child protection to child in need and back into child protection) and this can at times make sustaining positive working relationships difficult.

Working with families at CP level is time and resource-consuming to Local Authorities and partner agencies. We need to ensure in future that when CP plans are ended there is a robust multi-agency child in need plan in place to lessen the risk of future child protection concerns. The number of re-plans suggests that the current system is not working in the most effective and efficient manner.

#### Approach

Trafford has initiated a project within the Trafford partnership which identifies a cohort of families which meet the criteria below. The project will be led by partners in the Strategic Safeguarding Board, including Children social care, Public Health, Commissioning and Community Safety Partnership, and will commission a specialist domestic abuse family intervention worker post to engage with families.

##### Project Criteria

- A second or more Child protection plan within an 18 month period
- Domestic Abuse recorded as a risk at child protection planning

- Child protection plan has been ongoing for a period of four months or more (to allow for strategy discussion and two subsequent core groups)
- Plan is transitioning to child in need

Once the cohort of families are identified, the transition worker will engage with the area social work teams and the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) to consider, alongside the core group, the domestic abuse intervention that will be provided by the project.

The project will be a holistic approach supporting the whole family to empower them to achieve the long term sustainable behaviour change in their lives. Where there is identified domestic abuse, the project will work over time with the family individually and as a whole to support them to the long term solution they want, utilising the interventions below:

- **Engagement with the children**
  - Healthy relationships – consent, boundaries, trust and safety
  - The relationship spectrum
  - Teen power and control wheel
  - Address any issues arising from being a witness to DA e.g. attendances in school, low mood/self-esteem, health, refer to specialist services where applicable
- **Engagement with victim/survivor**
  - Power and control wheel
  - Healthy relationships
  - Support plan
  - Safety planning
  - Address any further issues such as learning and employment, low mood and refer to specialist services where applicable
- **Engagement with perpetrator**
  - Behaviour change model – 6-12 week model addresses each stage of changing behaviour with worksheets/motivational interviewing at each stage
  - Address any additional issues such as low mood, substance misuse, learning and employment

As part of the intervention the DASH risk assessment and radar assessment will be reviewed every 4 – 6 weeks to establish progress against set outcomes and performance indicators.

The transition worker will play a prominent role in empowering families, to become independent members of their community and less reliant on statutory services, including the reduction in domestic abuse in the family by engaging with the perpetrator through the Respect programme.

## **Challenges**

*Project recently being initiated, further information to be shared in coming months.*

**Successes**

*Engagement with partners to co-produce the requirements of this service and the impact of it.*

*Project recently being initiated, further information to be shared in coming months.*

**Conclusion**

*Project recently being initiated, further information to be shared in coming months.*