

Workshop – Paving the Way: Learning from the Early Intervention Project

Facilitators:

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The **aim** of this workshop was to identify ways to establish better early intervention and local support for families of children with learning disabilities whose behaviours are described as challenging.

The **objectives** were to:

- Hear about the findings from the national Early Intervention Project
- Learn about family support and PBS for families of children in Gloucestershire
- Identify ways to replicate good practice in other areas

Background

“Paving the Way” also known as The Early Intervention Project has been funded by the Department of Health through the Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Fund from 2013-16. The project is managed in partnership by the Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) and the Council for Disabled Children (CDC). The project has worked close with family carers, children and young people, professionals, commissioners academics and experts to identify “what works” for children, young people and families and to influence change to improve the support available for them. The project has produced a range of resources which are available on the new website: www.pavingtheway.works.

Gloucestershire has a challenging behaviour strategy covering the life course. The creation of a Positive Behavioural Support Service in the council, focusing on early intervention and prevention for children and young people aged 0 - 25, was a response to the key lessons learned from Winterbourne View. Its’ existence ensures a cohesive multiagency preventative approach is taken to prevent reliance on specialist services and to ensure that children, young people and adults with the potential to exhibit challenging behaviour have patterns of life and conditions of everyday living which are as close as possible to the regular circumstances and ways of life of society.

As part of the Challenging Behaviour Strategy, a new role of Challenging Behaviour Family Development Worker was established within Carers Gloucestershire in March 2014, covering both children & adults. Appointing a family carer to this role means that families are supported by someone who lives the same life as them and really understands the challenges they face.

The Early Intervention project has highlighted areas of good practice such as those found in Gloucestershire; however good support for this group of children is still far from a reality in most areas. The Transforming Care and Integrated Personal Commissioning programmes provide an opportunity to make a step change in how children are supported. This workshop will explore the specifics of how good practice for children can be replicated in more local areas.

Workshop agenda

After welcomes and introductions there was a brief presentation to give the background and context for the work including key findings from the Early Intervention project, information on the role of Challenging Behaviour Development Worker role in Gloucestershire County Council and the development of the Gloucestershire Early Intervention Service. A group discussion followed covering the following issues and contributed to the actions listed in the actions table:

- a) Key people to influence in local areas to make good support for children a reality elsewhere
- b) Key influencers of those people in local areas (e.g. hearts and minds, funding streams, targets, particular people or organisations etc.)
- c) Key messages they need to hear
- d) Identification of personal action plan

The action planning discussions focussed on developing the next stage of an influencing strategy for the early intervention project (see above) and individuals signing up to personal actions to promote early intervention, which we will email to remind them about and check progress.

Additional actions identified were to:

- Explore whether there is a write up of the Gloucestershire evaluation evidence which can be shared on the Paving the Way site (Sue Turner)
- Consider the potential for a joint MENCAP/CBF campaign around children (CB-NSG campaign sub group)
- Ask the PBS Academy about progress with accreditation for PBS training – the group in this workshop felt it could make a huge difference and about whether they will be able to share sample PBS plans on the new website to help replicate good practice. (CBF to ask PBS academy)

People to influence	Who or what influences them	Key messages
Transforming Care Partnerships CAMHS CCGs Education commissioners Individual schools DfE Ofsted/CQC area inspections Politicians and local MPs Short breaks and respite Coimcil leaders Joint commissioners Adult commissioners Special schools (NASS) Dfe/SEN advisers/SENCOs/Heads	Evidence of role of PBS Ofsted ratings Financial benefits Training Families/carers networks Outcome focussed evidence	Family experiences Savings Alternative vision of local support