

Early Intervention Project Workshop 1 – Challenging Behaviour – National Strategy Group

Summary

The focus of the workshop was support for children age 0-18 with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges. Most of the discussion was focussed around young children. The group were asked to think about what support would look like in an ideal world. When the list was complete, the group concluded that these elements should not be categorised as “ideal world” but as basic requirements which all families should expect to have met, including: a single point of contact; clear information when concerns arise; effective support provided early and locally – with professionals working in partnership with families.

Barriers

Barriers to good early support and ways to overcome those barriers were discussed. The group identified the key barriers (by voting) and the practical steps they felt the project might explore to overcome those barriers.

The results are summarised in the table below.

| Barrier | Practical steps for the Early Intervention Project to explore |
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| Understanding of Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) among organisations/Executives/Leaders | 1. Clear, well communicated definition of what early intervention and prevention using a PBS framework looks like, the cost savings it could achieve and the outcomes it could deliver. |
| Un-coordinated, idiosyncratic services with the investment at the wrong stage | <p>2. Work with the Joint Improvement Programme to help local commissioners develop models which work in partnership with families from the start and provide the right support for families at the right time.</p> <p>3. Assess the success of support and services against well-defined outcome measures related to quality of life (not just reduction in challenging behaviour). Use academic input to develop suitable measures.</p> <p>4. Work with the Joint Improvement programme and the DfE to develop a database of evidence-based early support so local areas can learn from others “what works”</p> |
| It is currently acceptable practice to find a child “too difficult” for local services | 5. Develop resources to improve training of commissioners and staff and practical support available to all families who need it |

Action

The Early Intervention Project team will take forward point 1 as part of the project scoping activity for completion by April 2014. We will explore points 2-4 with the Joint Improvement Programme and will scope further what is required under point 5 to take forward in 2014. We are very grateful to workshop attendees for their input and ideas and will continue to involve those who signed up to the project Reference Group.