



Early years – early intervention and prevention

- **Partnership working** between mainstream and SEN provisions to develop PBS plans
- **Specialist services** – audiology and dental
- ‘Support first’ models
- **Training** in schools
- Medway **youth services** (e.g. Shine)
- **National Youth Strategy** (potential for local development)
- **PBS offers** across Kent and Medway (0–18 years)
- STLS **Specialist Teachers**
- **Mental Health Support Teams** (MHST) in schools
- **Training** offers for family carers

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Older family carers – planning ahead

- Willingness from families to **support others**
- Families as lifelong **advocates**
- Families are **knowledgeable** – they know their relative best

WHAT'S WORKING WELL?



Transition – moving from child to adult services

- Setting that provide support through from **pre-school to 19+**
- Kent Special Education Needs Trust (KSENT) **joint working**
- **Person-centred planning** (when capacity allows)
- **Families leading**



Risk of crisis at any age – additional support

- **Small charities and forums** – able to be bespoke to individual needs
- The **understanding** and **empathy** for people/families in crisis
- Coffee mornings/drop in **events**
- **Strength of families** before they hit crisis
- Good at reacting (as a system) to crisis but **not proactive**



Early years – early intervention and prevention

- **Postcode lottery** determines availability of support and services
- **Long wait times** for diagnosis, NHS services such as SALT and EHCPs
- **Reactive** not proactive system
- Decisions based on **funding** and cost over individual needs
- **System delays** to prevent expenditure
- Support for families from **ethnic minority backgrounds**
- **Limited capacity** of charities to support families
- Lack of **information** and **support**
- **Complex pathways** to support
- Overstretched systems, funding and **staffing** constraints
- Lack of **respite services** for families contributes to emotional strain which is not considered
- Specific **parent training** for families of children with severe learning disabilities and behaviours that challenge
- Parent/Carer blame and **trauma**

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Older family carers – planning ahead

- Understanding the **scope** of 'older family carers'
- Lack of **future planning**
- Family carers experiences over a long time – **traumatic**, tiring
- **Clear pathways** for 'succession' planning, families better equipped
- **Support and training** for older family carers managing challenging behaviour

WHAT COULD BE BETTER?



Transition – moving from child to adult services

- **Lack of services** available post-19
- Funding disagreements/lack of **funding**
- Lack of **staff capacity**
- More proactive plans need to be in place in a timely manner as transition can be a **catalyst for crisis**, increasing risk of inappropriate detention
- No specific **transition team** for social care now following restructure – unable to build **relationships**
- **Misplaced resources**
- **EHCPs** – ceasing/only focusing on education
- Early planning is non-existent and is taking days not years ahead of 18th birthdays. **Earlier referrals** needed to community teams
- Lacks **whole family approach**
- Lack of community support results in more **out of area placements** – costing LA more



Risk of crisis at any age – additional support

- **Assessments** during crisis is unhelpful – new approach is needed
- Increasing **prevention** methods
- **Criteria review** – often not met until actually in crisis
- More focus on early intervention and **practical, consistent approaches** being taught to families
- **Disjointed information** and **support**
- Improve **working with families**
- Understanding **trauma** and stigma that can prevent people accessing services
- Lack of **continuity of care** (ie. with social care)
- Sharing and learning from **good practice examples**



The Challenging
Behaviour Foundation
making a difference to the lives of people with severe learning disabilities



Early years – early intervention and prevention

- Utilising and sharing **ICS website**
- Share more **information** with families
- Equipping families with the **right support early** on
- **Joint systems** approach to communication
- **Data** collection and compilation
- **Co-production and co-delivery** (including children)

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Older family carers – planning ahead

- Bringing people together to listen and support each other (**peer support networks**)
- Building **connections**, face-to-face **engagement**
- **Information sharing** strategies
- Feed into the **Learning Disability and Autism All-Age Strategy**
- Reach out to younger family members such as siblings to support the **sustainable care planning work**

WHAT ACTIONS CAN WE TAKE?



Transition – moving from child to adult services

- **Peer to peer support** networks
- **Information** sharing events
- Improving **communication** between children's and adults services
- **Continuity of care**
- **Trained specialists** in all services
- Learning from other **good practice**
- Demonstrating the **financial benefits** of good practice examples vs the cost of negative transition causing crisis

Key themes

- Information sharing
- Joint approaches
- Improved working systems with families
- Case studies and good practice examples
- Peer support



Risk of crisis at any age – additional support

- Improve **contingency planning** and focus assessments on **prevention**
- Engage and **support families** more proactively, addressing needs earlier
- **Tackle stigma and trauma**, raise awareness of family carer 'burnout'
- Improve **transition processes** (key crisis risk stage)
- **'Up-skilling' GP's**
- Raise awareness of the importance of **bespoke care/support** needs



Forward Together – Kent & Medway Region

Progress so far....

Shared CBF resources and reports:

1. 'Planning for the Future' Resource

Family carers:

- Connected into the CBF's family carer email network
- Provided with information for carers catch up sessions, listening ear calls and family support details
- Shared details of local parent carer forums
- Facilitated discussions with professionals working in the area to express their experiences and views

Invited professionals from the regional networks to join the CBF's Professional Email Network to connect with other professionals working with people with severe learning disabilities and behaviours that may challenge, providing peer learning opportunities.

Shared information gathered at the CoP event with leads in Kent and Medway.

Bringing in more representation from Medway to the project

Family Carer Project Worker Dean contributes to the sessions on the development of the Learning Disability and Autism Strategy for Kent and Medway to raise the issues faced by the group we are focusing on (severe learning disabilities).

Considered plans for next community of practice event including locality, how we can support more family carers to engage and to get the right information and to be more connected into services.