

CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
6 October 2009

THINK FAMILY THEME DISCUSSION: Context paper

'THINK FAMILY' SELF-ASSESSMENT

Think Family extends the logic of integration at the heart of Every Child Matters beyond children's services to all of the services working with individuals in families at risk, including adult services. Services of all types may come into contact with families at risk and so the implications of 'Think Family' are far reaching and extend to both universal and targeted services working with adults, children and families. This self-assessment has been designed to assist planners and commissioners in identify and prioritise system and services reforms for their areas.

Name of Service:

Completed by:

Position:

Date completed: 6 October 2009

MOSTLY AS AND BS

Significant progress is being made. Your area may well be an example of good practice. Have you evaluated the impact of these changes on outcomes? Are you sharing your experience and findings with others?

MOSTLY BS AND CS

Good progress is being made in developing 'Think Family systems and services in your area. Have you identified the obstacles top further progress? What steps can you take to address these?

MOSTLY CS AND DS

Although there is much more to be done services and practitioners which reflect 'Think family' approaches are operating in your area. What more can be done to support them and provide the strategic framework for their practice to be disseminated more widely?

MOSTLY DS AND ES

Clearly there is some distance to be travelled before you could regard yourself operating 'Think Family' systems and services. Is there a high-level strategic commitment to change? What could be done to secure this?

OVERVIEW

	Assessment Criteria	A	B	C	D	E
	Do services offered for vulnerable children:					
1.1	Identify families at risk to provide support at the earliest opportunity?					
1.2	Meet the full-range of needs within each family they are supporting or working with?					
1.3	Strengthen the ability of family members to provide care and support to each?					
	Do services offered for vulnerable adults:					
1.4	Identify families at risk to provide support at the earliest opportunity?					
1.5	Meet the full-range of needs within each family they are supporting or working with?					
1.6	Strengthen the ability of family members to provide care and support to each?					

A = always **B** = usually **C** = It depends on the service **D** = It depends on the practitioner **E** = rarely

SERVICE ASSESSMENT (to be completed for each service assessed)

Name of Service:

	Assessment Criteria	A	B	C	D	E
	Does this service:					
2.1	Consider the family situation in all areas of their work?					
2.2	Use whole family assessments where needed to establish how the needs of other family members affect their client and how meeting those needs might benefit their client?					
2.3	Work with other local agencies to identify, refer and plan how the needs of other family members can be met alongside those of their client, for example referral to drug or alcohol services or parenting support programmes?					
2.4	Seek out specialist advice and support when multiple or complex needs are identified e.g. multi-agency whole family support?					
2.5	Agree how information can be shared to identify those in need or at risk and plan the most appropriate support?					
2.6	Champion 'think family' practice through staff training and recruitment and the information they provide to service users a in the public?					
2.7	Operate strict local protocols for safeguarding children who may be at risk and when domestic violence is suspected?					

A = Always **B= Usually, depending on the circumstances** **C = It depends on the service they are working with** **D = It depends on the practitioner involved** **E = Not usually**

CHILDREN'S TRUST ASSESSMENT

	Assessment Criteria	A	B	C	D	E
3.1	Seek out and respond to the needs and preferences of families when designing or reviewing strategies, policies and services and identify 'Think Family' champions who lead and account for progress in reforming systems and services					
3.2	Secure the agreement of a wide range of adults and children's services to 'Think Family' approaches and practices backed by appropriate staff training where needed					
3.3	Agree and set out (through Local Area Agreements, Children and Young Peoples Plans, and Parenting Strategies) how local services will use 'Think Family' approaches to deliver plans and target those at most risk					
3.4	Put in place a range of family support services (such as e.g. parenting support programmes, key workers, multi-agency panels, family intervention projects)					
3.5	Establish shared information, assessment and budget pooling arrangements designed to intervene early, co-ordinate and 'join up' support for members of families at risk					

A = Always **B** = Usually, depending on the circumstances **C** = It depends on the service they are working with **D** = It depends on the practitioner involved **E** = Not usually