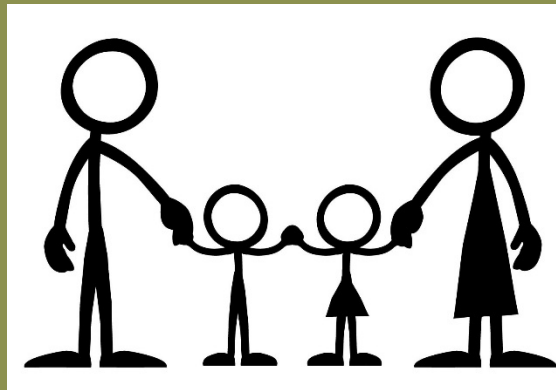


Family Stability Service



Working alongside 'FamiliesGateshead' families to promote independence, stability and flourishing family units



Who we are



- Set up in July 2013 following Gateshead's response to the Troubled Families Agenda
- Providing a **STEP DOWN** or **EARLY INTERVENTION** service – Children's North East, Barnardos, FIT team
- Tail end support to prevent referral into higher intervention services in the future



Intervention has shown that it has had positive results: ‘walking in the shoes of families every day.

To look at the family from the inside out, to understand its dynamics as a whole, and to offer practical help and support – but also to be the person to authoritatively challenge that family to change’ (Louise Casey: 2012 – Working with Troubled Families)



Who is eligible



- Families with LOW-MODERATE level support needs
- 1 or 2 parent families
- Support needs including: unemployment, truancy, anti-social behavior, family routines, parenting skills
- Children aged 0-17 years
- TAF in place
- Part of FamiliesGateshead programme



What do we do



- Provide 1:1 Family Support Worker
- Volunteer Family Mentors
- Personalised support – empowering, voice, break generational cycles
- Family led support goals
- Flexible: service available 07:00-22:00, 7 days a week



Outcomes

- Reduction in anti-social behaviour
- Positive engagement in employment/training
- Positive engagement in school
- No further long-term support required from support services



Case study



- Louise Casey – ‘Listening to Troubled Families’ (2012)
- Karen – single Mum – low self-esteem – generational patterns – ‘if there was an addict I seemed to attract them....I thought that’s all I deserved’
- Our aim is to **empower** service users
- Current family with support needs/support for children with SEN – raising self-esteem of children, supporting parent/carer





Staffing Team

- Project Manager (part-time) – Sue Mould
- Project Team Leader (part-time)– Claire Scott
- 4 part time (2 full time equivalent) Family Support Workers
 - Kerry Heslop
 - -Nicole Turnbull
 - -Helen Gordon
 - -Kathryn Whelan
- Family Mentors: recruited on ongoing basis throughout the life of the project – responsibility for one aspect of support plan



Referral process

- Family achieved key outcomes – monitoring phase
- Contact Family Support Service – 0191 469 0996
- Complete Referral form
- Email to Project Team Leader, along with most recent CAF/ CIN assessment, Support Plan, next TAF date
- See if meets FSS criteria
- Contact Lead Practitioner
- Arrange meeting with Family and Lead Practitioner
- Decision made on suitability
- Referral ACCEPTED or DECLINED (if too high need or lack capacity)



Where are we up to?

- Service up and running for 10 weeks
- Received 6 referrals – annual leave
- 2 families worked with and cases closed
- 12 more families identified as in monitoring phase, ready to hand down to our service by end September
- Full staffing team in place, inductions completed
- 7 Volunteer Family Mentors recruited, inducted, appointed
- Training (Safeguarding, CP, CAF, Boundaries...)
- Networking with referral providers, community groups



Please see our stand for
further information and
leaflets