

bulletin 3 - november 2009

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pages 2 - 4 focus area

Family intervention project

- What it means, what we will do
- Evidence of success
- Organisations involved
- Expected outcomes

page 5 cross cutting themes

- Financial Wellbeing (financial literacy and financial inclusion)
- A role for the arts ?

Learning the lessons

Barwell, Leicestershire



No room for ignorance and no excuses....

Are we responding to the needs of those most vulnerable in our communities?

Listening, seeing ?

Working together to make a difference to improve quality of life?

Tackling local issues ?

The tragic case in Barwell has raised many issues around the delivery of public services, and the significance of issues faced by vulnerable people in our communities, we have a duty to help and protect. Barwell was not the exception, but are we in Warwickshire doing all that we can to ensure we are not guilty of the same?

In Warwickshire we are moving ahead with the Family Intervention Project to tackle this.



Family Intervention Project

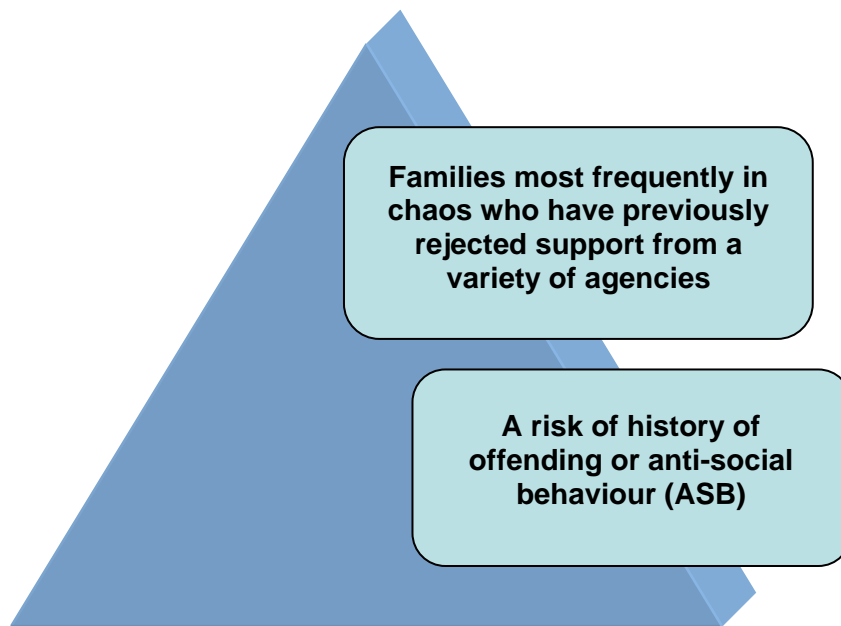
Targeting resources towards a small number of families

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What does it mean?

Targeting resources towards a small number of highly problematic families that account for a disproportionate amount of anti-social behaviour. The effect of their behaviour on local communities cannot be under-estimated.



What is FIP?

What does it involve?

The Family Intervention Projects (FIPs) in Warwickshire will operate on the basis of an outreach model working in people's homes.

The following components may be included within a family intervention programme:

- Challenging behaviour patterns – tackling causes of anti social behaviour
- Parenting advice and guidance
- Support with a wide range of educational problems
- Support in finding /retaining education, training and work experience
- Support in finding /retaining employment
- Individual counselling / mentoring and relationship counselling
- Support with housing issues, tenancy management, neighbour conflict etc
- Support to help improve the property and its environs
- Support with finance and budgeting
- Support with health issues, diet, smoking, sexual health etc
- Anger management support
- Support to reduce offending
- Support to reduce substance misuse

continued...

Project Links

The project links with High Harm Causers and Family Intervention initiatives being developed through the Local Strategic Partnerships in Nuneaton & Bedworth, Rugby and Warwick.

In addition to the work of the LSPs, we expect to target:

- 50 further families in Nuneaton and Bedworth / North Warwickshire
- 35 further families in Warwick District / Stratford on Avon District
- 25 further families in Rugby Borough

The FIP, is not a question of either/or - support and enforcement are systematically linked to provide families with the incentive to change.

Does the FIP work?

Family Intervention Projects (FIPs) have developed out of the Government's **Think Family and anti-social behaviour strategy** which has focused on tackling anti-social behaviour such as neighbour nuisance.

A 2008 study of families who completed the FIP intervention displayed considerable improvements in all key areas of the FIPs' work. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and criminal activities had declined considerably at the point families exited from a FIP, as had the risk of families engaging in ASB.

The risk of families being evicted and homelessness had also considerably reduced.

The outcomes for children and young people were also reported to have improved.

Research undertaken by CLG / DCSF has estimated that the cost of supporting families in these circumstances through uncoordinated approaches can amount to £250,000 - £350,000, whereas the average cost per family of the FIP approach was estimated at between £8,000-£15,000.

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Partner organisations likely to be directly involved in the delivery of the FIP

- Warwickshire County Council
- Warwickshire Police
- NHS Warwickshire
- Voluntary and Community Organisations
- Borough and District Councils
- Warwickshire Probation Service
- HM Courts Service
- Local Criminal Justice Board

Partner involvement will be achieved:

- Through the Public Service Board via Warwickshire Children's Trust, Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership and the Sub Group referred to above
- Local Strategic Partnerships
- Steering / Management Groups established for each of the FIP projects

The work is widely owned, supported by the Public Service Board and is currently being coordinated through a sub group of Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership and the Children's Trust, chaired by the Strategic Director for Customers, Workforce and Governance.

Measuring Success

Precise improvement targets for each family would need to be set within the assessment process and would depend upon the issues each family faces.

Over the time of their involvement in the FIP these might be expected to include a reduction in...

- ↓ The number and types of ASB the families are reported to have engaged
- ↓ Incidence of domestic violence
- ↓ Reported truancy, exclusions and bad behaviour from schools
- ↓ Substance misuse for both parents and young people
- ↓ A reduction in the number of child protection concerns
- ↓ A reduction in neighbour / community complaints

And improvements in...

- ↑ Educational outcomes for children
- ↑ The family's socio-economic profile / reduced levels of debt

More information on the Family Intervention Project can be obtained from Nick Gower-Johnson (01926) 412053, nickgower-johnson@warwickshire.gov.uk

Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy

Is about helping people to take control of their financial affairs. Financial inclusion is about ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to access financial service products needed to participate fully in modern day society. This includes access to

- £ Affordable and responsible credit
- £ An appropriate bank account
- £ Face to face debt advice
- £ Basic home contents insurance
- £ Savings facilities

In Warwickshire, we need to recognise and help those people who are considered financially excluded in our communities, particularly those in the most disadvantaged communities across Warwickshire.

Financial capability is a key part of improving quality of life – knowing how to manage money, taking control of debt (including understanding the implications of borrowing rates) and knowing where to obtain financial advice and support.

It is likely that ‘unlicensed lenders’ operate in our communities, often accessed by the most disadvantaged or financially excluded. These high borrowing rates further exacerbate problems within the family.

Links to Health

Recent research has found that an increase in financial capability leads to an increase in psychological wellbeing and life satisfaction, and a decrease in anxiety and depression.

Mark Ryder, Head of Trading Standards, Regulation and Emergency Management is co-ordinating a new Steering Group for Financial Inclusion in Warwickshire.

A place for the arts?

Officers from the County Arts Service are exploring opportunities for the Arts to support the Narrowing the Gaps agenda.

Identifying issues or opportunities where the arts could be a useful tool to engage communities, or to deliver to economic, environmental, learning or wellbeing outcomes.

Next issue

This is a monthly publication, if you have any ideas to contribute to the next or future issues please contact:

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