

Case Studies:

Children's Centre 1 (CC 1) – Small children's centre funded for 35 FSM pupils across 5 schools.

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessments have been completed for the majority of families worked with. The children's centre have acted as lead professional for some families and have supported the school to undertake this role with other families where this has been identified as appropriate. Of the 9 families where the children's centre has been lead professional all 9 have seen a reduction in the level of need through the provision of targeted family support.

CC 2 – Medium size centre funded for 68 FSM pupils across 9 schools

73% parents said that their time spent learning with their children had increased through Best Start.

73% parents also said that the range of activities used with their children had increased through Best Start work.

CC 3 – Small rural children's centre funded for 46 FSM pupils across 5 schools

An improved relationship with local schools has resulted in the delivery of parenting support resulting in 8 Best Start Families engaging with the Department of Work and Pensions (European Social Fund) 'Families Programme' delivered by VIA partnership, a back to work programme. This year 4 parents have attained employment or started volunteering.

CC4 – Large children's centre funded for 138 FSM pupils across 5 schools, high proportion of children with English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Reception children attended weekly language groups led by the commissioned Speech and Language Therapist using an evidence based Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) programme. Teaching assistants were also trained in delivering this programme to ensure sustainability for future years. Results of this programme were very positive: following the intervention 86% of children's understanding of spoken language was within the average range (pre-intervention was 7%), 90% of children's understanding and use of vocabulary was within the average range (pre-intervention was 20%), and 73% of children's ability to produce intelligible and grammatically correct sentences falls within the average range (pre-intervention was 0%). For many of these children English was an additional language and the progress they made was significant.

CC5 – Large children's centre in the east of the county funded for 181 FSM pupils across 6 primary schools

The centre have reached 82% of the FSM pupils in an area of high need, subsequently one primary school has commissioned an additional 22 hours of a children's centre outreach worker to undertake family support in families' homes to

help school improve attendance, specifically lateness. This has consisted of early morning family support visits with supplementary visits with parents around guidance, boundaries and behaviour management. The approach is backed up with access for parents through the children's centre to evidenced based parenting programmes.

CC6 – Small children's centre funded for 21 FSM pupils across 4 schools

6 families have been in receipt of family support and the impact on their level of need has been monitored. 1 family has been de-escalated from level 4 on the Lancashire Continuum of Need (not coping) to level 3 (struggling to cope), 3 families have de-escalated from level 3 (struggling to cope) to level 2 (just coping), 2 families have de-escalated from level 2 (just coping) to level 1(thriving).

CC7 – Large children's centre funded for 169 FSM pupils across 3 schools in an area of high need, with a high proportion of families with English as an additional language (EAL)

Evidence of de-escalation is shown through the use of Outcomes Stars, where on average families have moved up two points, and through the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings, which are held by the individual schools. One school reports that from 17 children worked with, four of them have gone from being a Child in Need to level two (just coping) with just minimal intervention required now to support their, and their families', needs.

Support has also been made available from Best Start staff to train/support school staff in the writing of CAFs and in attending TACs.

All schools report an improvement in children arriving at school on time and improved attendance. At one school, two pupils who had 80% and 85% attendance respectively have both had 100% since intervention. In another school unauthorised absences fell from 6.7% to 4.7% after intervention.

CC8- Large children's centre funded for 217 FSM pupils across 6 schools

56 families have received one to one outreach support in the home; there has been a 95% reduction in identified family need measured on the continuum of need. 80% of those families are closed to targeted outreach support and now access universal services, 20% receive continued targeted outreach support.

CC9 – Large children's centre funded for 117 FSM pupils across 6 schools

Of 105 children worked with across this cluster of schools the centre could evidence de-escalation of family need for 59 out of 94 families. This success resulted in a school commissioning a children centre outreach worker to work within school on a part time basis with line management support from the children centre - This embedded a whole school approach to the interventions and supported similar work with children older than 7 years.