

Working together with Families Case Study

Identification

Information was shared within the Community Safety Partnership; we identified a number of key services including Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Youth Offending Team, Probation Trust, Local Authority and Social Care/Services. It was anticipated that once all the relevant information had been collated and analysed a broad overview of the family would be apparent.

It was also beneficial to access information from the local high school.

Once the initial information was received it was then necessary to source other information from other local services, in order to identify the 'bigger picture'.

As a result of the initial work that had taken place at the early stage this family was clearly identified as the top priority family, having been named by four agencies, and for the purpose of anonymity and this case study we will class them as 'Family A' and 'Family B' although they are one total family

Background

Family A – consisted of Single mother aged 38 years with four children, three of whom were dependant, son 17 years, daughter 10 years, daughter 4 years all of whom have different birth fathers.

Family B – consisted of a single mother age 42 years with three children one of whom is dependant, son 13 years. Although these two lived at different addresses, they did make up the wider picture.

Both families lived in private rented accommodation with **Family A** property consisted of three bedrooms on a small cul-de-sac within a deprived housing estate, made up of predominately housing association properties. **Family B** lived in 2 bedroom terrace property within a deprived area. Both parents are in receipt of benefits and are not currently employed or seeking work.

At the time of identification the Son was on an ASBO for Anti-social behaviour and this was an on-going problem in the local areas. He was believed to be using Cannabis and alcohol and had already served a sentence in secure accommodation. This young man had

previously received very limited education, consisting of a small number of hours per week. There were constant calls to the home address with domestic violence problems between mother and son, all this being witnessed by the two younger siblings. This young person also had 35 offences recorded on the police national computer with 14 convictions for offences including theft and kindred, against property, against the person, public order and bail offences. He had been arrested a total of 36 times in the last 3 years. He was recorded as the offender on 23 crime reports and recorded as aggrieved on 4. He had been reported missing from home twice.

Daughter of 10 years and 4 years was attending mainstream education but were starting to show a sign of withdrawal and distress and this was linked to the behaviour of the son. A family learning mentor started to work with these children to address these issues.

Nephew 13 years began to come to the attention of services due to his high levels of anti-social behaviour both in the community and at his place of education and it was believed at this early stage that he was mirroring the behaviour of his cousin. He had been arrested once and has one conviction for Burglary other than in a dwelling.

The Youth Offending team initiated the Team Around The Family meetings. The attendance included Lancashire Fire & Rescue, Young Peoples service, Police, Local Authority, Education, Children's social care, Housing services. Issues identified were housing for 17 year old, referral for early intervention for the nephew, continuation of a positive activity for 10 year old daughter, referrals to the food bank to assist mum, referral to Addaction for their attendance at future meetings.

Meetings continued to be held on a six weekly basis which have resulted in actions being taken by all agencies and updates provided at the following meetings.

Family A - Progress to date includes identifying the son 17 as the main issue within the home address. Significant work has taken place with Mum around behaviours in the home. It was agreed son 17's attitude was having a huge impact on the younger sibling which resulted in mum refusing to have him back at the home address. Since this the younger siblings have improved greatly both at home and at school. Daughter 10 is excelling within her gymnastics which was funded by the TAF and has written a statement to explain how better her home life is now that her

brother is no longer living there. It was identified by the lead professionals that damage to the home address was showing an impact on the younger children and reminded them of previous situations. This was shown in their behaviour at school and it was agreed that funding was obtained to repair damage, which would enable the family to move forward. Son 17 is now in secure accommodation.

Further work in progress – Mum (Family A) assisting with parental support, Health advice, return to work interview with the DWP arranged and budgeting. Referrals made to Help Direct for heating and support advice.

Family B – Assisting with statement for education for Son 13 to enable him to go to a special school. Parental support from Barnardo's provided. Youth Involvement support from the Police who have helped to access positive activities, boundaries and consequences. Referral made to Help Direct. Assistance with moving house.

Summary

Outcomes that have been achieved so far have included

Reduced calls to the Police - from the period 6 months prior to the first meeting to the six months which bring us to date has seen a 90% reduction in calls to the home address of family A

Anti-Social Behaviour – No adverse contact with the police by Son 13 of Family B.

Education – The son 13 year of family B has now been assessed by an educational psychologist and a chance of moving to a special school has resulted in increased attendance by son 13 family B

The health and wellbeing of all family members in family A have greatly improved.

These outcomes are as a result of services taking a whole family approach and working together with the family.

Daughter 10 Family A

XXX was asked about home life now compared to how it was:

Her response -

Things are better now without XXX at home. Mum isn't as stressed, so doesn't shout at me as much. Police don't come round anymore – I was sometimes there when he was arrested and I would be screaming. He once whacked me when we crossed on the stairs & he also hit mum with a Hoover. Quite a lot of police would come to 'get him down'.

Life was horrible when XXX lived at home; he caused arguments with anyone in the house, even XXX. Sometimes he would hurt me & throw stuff at me.

Life now is cool at home. I am doing really well at gymnastics and am Grade 11 which is very good for my age and I got 2nd place in the recent competition.

A message to the people in the meeting – Thanks. Thank you for being there for me.