

# Families First Briefing

## December 2013



### What is Families First?

- A more co-ordinated way of working with families who are experiencing difficulties or challenges in their lives.
- A partnership approach that focuses on the whole family, addressing all of their needs together.
- Working together with families to make positive changes to their lives & move away from dependency on public services.
- Taking a preventative approach by working with families before their problems become too difficult to manage, as well as supporting families out of crisis.

It is **NOT**

- A new service or extra bureaucracy.
- The next 'Big Idea'

### Outcome

#### Case study 1:

- The Families First team have been instrumental in halting an eviction by engaging Housing, Bucks Floating Support and a primary school in a multi-agency approach. The lone parent who suffers from depression, and has an 8 week old baby and 2 older children was overwhelmed with relief.

#### Case study 2:

- Information sharing, and a systemic approach involving Police, Social Care and Health resulted in a family being removed from a Child Protection Plan. This involved the Families First team motivating partner agencies to work more creatively, by praising the positives within the family which in turn empowered the family to re-engage with professionals.

#### Case study 3:

- A case closed by FRS due to positive outcomes has engaged voluntarily with the Families First DWP Advisor to find employment. She was empowered to do so because of her child's increased school attendance, and her own improved self-esteem.

#### Case study 4:

- Feedback from Thames Valley Police indicates that the joined up approach from FRS, Social Care and Families First has shown a reduction in call outs in relation to several families in South Bucks.

For further information or to contribute to this briefing, please contact:

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### News and Updates

- Following a recent conference on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, Louise Casey, Director General of the Troubled Families Unit reported that 22,000 families have been 'turned around' so far.
- In an inspirational speech Louise talked about how to enable change: "you need to start with the person, not the issues", and how troubled families: "get stuck in the system".
- Louise described the Families First approach as: "like scaffolding, ensuring the families are supported, until they are enabled to cope themselves"
- Looking forward, the project will extend into 2015-2016 (with an "in principle" agreement for further investment up to 2020) - to improve the lives of a further 400,000 families.
- The focus will be on intervening before crisis point and increasing system change. This has been the Bucks approach from the start, so we are delighted that we are on the right track.
- Our involvement in Phase 2 is dependent on our achievement of the outcomes in Phase 1!

### Training and development

- **Understanding Resilience**  
13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014 - Clare Foundation, Saunderton
- **Developing Resilience**  
21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2014 – Clare Foundation, Saunderton  
13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2014 – Clare Foundation, Saunderton  
17<sup>th</sup> Mar 2014 – Clare Foundation, Saunderton
- To book a place on any training event please send your name, role, service area, email address and course to:  
[candftraining@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:candftraining@buckscc.gov.uk)
- **We are offering the opportunity for a limited number of interested individuals from all agencies to be trained to deliver Family Outcome Star Training. If you are interested, please register your interest via: [candftraining@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:candftraining@buckscc.gov.uk)**