



Changes in Children & Young Peoples Services

Key Drivers for change:

- Outcome of enquiries regarding the death of Baby P as published in the Munro Report
- Increase in demand i.e. increase in referral rates; increase in looked after population; increase in caseloads.
- Findings from the work of the CHECK team regarding the journey of the child through social care e.g. too many hand-off points, including change of team and change of Social Worker
- Need to reduce bureaucracy and streamline processes
- Too many entrance points into Social Care.
- The need for a coordinated Early Help Offer.

What we are doing:

- Development of a First Response Team for Social Care. A 6 month trial of First Response began in August 2012 and this will be reviewed in January 2013. The proposed long term plan is for this to be extended in the future to form a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- Development of the Early Help Service, which will be renamed 'Family Resilience'.
- Development of small units based on function (i.e. Family Resilience Units; Children in Need Units; Children in Care Units; Children with Disability Units)
- Providing a single Placement Service for access to fostering and residential placements.
- Promoting recruitment of Foster Carers. A recruitment campaign was formally launched in September.
- Streamline of Fostering and Adoption Teams to form a 'First Stop' Service (dealing with enquiries, referrals and queries in relation to Fostering and Adoption) a 'Fostering Team' (undertaking assessment and support of Foster carers) and a 'Permanence Team' (undertaking family finding and other tasks related to finding permanent homes for children looked after and post adoption support).
- Moving to locality based working with Family Resilience and Social Work Units based in localities. Each unit will cover one or more School Liaison Groups.
- Training staff in Systemic working
- Eliminating some of the bureaucracy and enabling staff to spend more time with families
- Extending the CATCH Service to provide a rapid response service to children and young people of all age groups up to 18 who are at risk of coming into care.
- Developing a Court Assessment Team in conjunction with CAMHS.
- Appointing a Principal Social Worker as recommended in the Munro Report 2011

We welcome any opportunities to communicate further with partner agencies. Please contact Gill Steckiewicz: Project Manager: Bucks Social Work Model at c-gsteckiewicz@buckscc.gov.uk if any further information is required.

