Neglect on our Doorstep

The Local Perspective in Cambridgeshire

John Gregg – Service Director
Introduction

◆ Brief Introduction
◆ Services and Initiatives
◆ Challenges
◆ Opportunities
Starting Point – Protecting Children is Everybody’s Responsibility

‘Safeguarding children- the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm - is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play……in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action’

(Working Together 2015 p7-8)
Overview - Cambridgeshire Deprivation scores 2015
Cambridgeshire Demographics

- Size – 3,389km²
- Population 635,000 (2013)
- Forecast 25% increase in the size of Cambridgeshire’s population (801,100) over the next 20 years.
- 23.3% of those in Cambridgeshire is under 19 (2011)
## Comparative Information Around Neglect Child Protection

### 2014 - 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Children subject to CP Plan per 10,000</th>
<th>No of CP plans under Neglect per 10,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSC</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Neighbours</td>
<td>53.21</td>
<td>21.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6 Months Analysis
July 2015 to Jan 2016

74% of referrals into Children Social care had Neglect as the main category of concern.
Referrals with neglect as the main CIN Code over a 6 month timeframe

- 46% Closed
- 44% Closed within 3 months
- 10% Became CP
Services and Initiatives
Working for Families and

♦ We know that parenting is the most important single variable in educational attainment

♦ We know that education is the key to supporting children and young people and improving life chances

♦ Parental attitudes to young children – the single most important faction in determining positive development
What Children and Families Want

- To feel safe
- A place to live
- A job
- Friendship
- A chance to be involved in their local communication
Young People’s Advice on Providing Better Opportunities

- Design Interventions aimed at the very young
- Don’t blame parents focus on improving communication between parents and children
- Clean up estates and improve poor living conditions
- Marginalised young people still want to learn
- Find ways to make use of peer group pressure
Cambridgeshire Model of Staged Intervention (MOSI)

Level 4 – Severe Needs/Protection

Level 3 – Complex Needs

Level 2 – Additional Needs

Level 1 – Emerging Needs

Step up and Step Down Procedures

Children’s Social Care and other specialist Services

Early Help Services

Voluntary & community organisations, schools, health, other partners, some direct provision

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Early Help – Locality working
to support families

- Children’s Centre
- Support for Schools
- Family Workers
- Direct, targeted support for children and young people

14 Locality teams, providing integrated responsive service

MOSI level 2 and 3
Early Help – Developing Effective Support for Families

Whole family Working:
◆ Multi Systemic Therapy (Clinical Leadership)
◆ Family Intervention Project (Together for Families)
◆ Youth Offending Service (Think Families)
◆ Drug and Alcohol Action Team (Children’s Links Workers)
◆ Early Support (Specialist SEND Services)
◆ Specialist Family Support Service
◆ Family Group Conferencing
◆ Alternative to Care
◆ Space Project
◆ Think Family Developers
◆ Advice and Co-ordination Team
◆ An Evolving Picture
Cambridgeshire Unit Model – Based on ‘Signs of Safety’

♦ What are the strengths and resources of this family and their network
♦ What safety currently exists
♦ Using clear and vigorous distinction between strength’s and protection – Definition: Safety = strengths demonstrated on protection over time
♦ Using straight forward language that is readily available
A Social Work ‘unit’ in Cambridgeshire

- 47 Units, across all social work functions
- Group Managers typically manage 4-6 units
A better approach to social work practice

- Consistent methodology
  - Systemic thinking
- Shared risk and transparency
  - Weekly unit meetings
- Clinical community
  - Support therapeutic interventions and behavioural change
- Working WITH families and hearing voice of child and family in everything we do

Single approach to doing social work, shared language, evidence-led

“A safe place to practice” – effective challenge and support, without restricting professional autonomy

Clinical input to units, direct support for families
Challenges

- Early Help – System or Service
- Achieving Common Purpose
- Working in Partnership
- Avoiding Initiative Inertia
- The risk of process over product
- Challenge offering and accepting
- Flexibility – Staying a step ahead
- Workforce, Skills and Training
Opportunities

- Strengthen Communities
- Innovations Project
- LSCB Exploring what Good Early Help Looks Like
- Define Services
- Build on what is working (MASH)
- Partners in Practice
Moving Forward

I keep six honest service men (they taught me all I know)

There names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who

Rudyard Kipling
Neglect on the Doorstep