

Early Intervention & Supporting Families with Multiple Problems



Early Intervention



Key Messages

- Isn't only early years
- Early intervention saves money and invests in the future
- Can break down professional silos and up skill staff

Definition of Early Intervention

Intervening early and as soon as possible to tackle problems emerging for children, young people and their families or with a population most at risk of developing problems. ***Early intervention may occur at any point in a child or young person's life.*** (Our emphasis)

Five “Golden Threads”

Constitute a strategy for whole system change:

- The best start in life
- Language for life
- Engaging parents
- Smarter working, better services
- Knowledge is power.

Grasping the Nettle

- Local, national and international evidence from practice shows effective Early Intervention works
- More research into effectiveness is needed, but five “golden threads“ reflect characteristics of successful examples
- Taken together the five strands provide the basis for a coherent strategy for systemic change.

Evidence from other C4EO themes

- Families, Parents and Carers
- Vulnerable Children
- Youth
- Schools and Communities
- Disability

Families, Parents and Carers

Key messages:

- Early rather than late intervention gives better outcomes for families
- Whole Family focused projects
 - encouraging results
- Work with parents
 - impact on achievement.

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Vulnerable/Looked After Children

Key Messages:

- Support from health & school based professionals - working together
- The learning and behavioural needs of looked after young people warrants further investigation
- Effective Early Intervention for LACYP
e.g. multi-systemic therapy and enhanced foster care

Youth

Key Messages:

- Targeted Youth Support - demonstrates characteristics of successful early intervention

Outcomes:

- Reductions in teenage pregnancy
- Improved emotional wellbeing
- Increased participation in education

Schools and Communities

- Clear links with Early Intervention
- Promising practice where strong links are established
 - e.g. Warrington Family Support Model

Transition points (summary 2) – Early Intervention

- Best start in Early Years
- Engagement of Parents to support transition

Disability

- Early Intervention critical factor
 - Family centred
 - Comprehensive key worker services
 - Outcomes positive for children with communication problems
- Everyone's responsibility

‘Grasping the Nettle’

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Supporting Families with Multiple Problems



C4EO Research priorities for families, parents and carers

- Physical and mental health of parents and carers
- Strengthening couple relationships
- Supporting mothers, fathers and carers of vulnerable children

Physical and mental health – what works

- Identify and intervene early
- Provide flexible, tailored support
- Avoid stigmatisation
- Use multi-systemic therapy

Strengthening couple relationships – what works

- Telephone helplines
- School or community based support
- Multi-agency holistic interventions
- Support and training on Domestic Violence for professionals
- Easy accessed confidential services
- Co-located and joined-up multi-agency working
- Well trained workforce

High risk factors for families

- History of maltreatment or unstable care
- Obsessional highly controlling personalities
- Domestic abuse
- Communication difficulties
- Low social support
- Aversion to external intervention
- Poor housing and financial difficulties
- Premature or underweight births
- Siblings or family members engaged in risk taking behaviour
- Maltreated children returning home

What works (1)

- Stop that shake, babies break - Staffordshire
- Right response, right service, right time - early intervention/multi-agency working - Hertfordshire
- Teens and toddlers projects - Birmingham and Manchester
- Westminster families project
- Using family group conferences - North Somerset
- Building bridges- early intervention potential - (mental health focus)

What works (2)

- Families and schools together-to enhance family functioning and improve parental engagement with schools and education processes - FAST
- Holding families – Bury - (substance misuse)
- Risk management group for young people - Northumberland
- Holding the space - a radical approach to work with trauma and abuse -Sunderland
- Adolescent multiagency response - LAC Islington
- Keys to the future – Bristol - Homelessness

Children on the Edge of Care: What works

- Interventions that support parents & carers
- Effective family support – based in communities & in schools
- Fear of stigmatisation is a significant barrier
- Timely assessments + good analysis
- Timely & effective interventions, especially for children with additional needs
- Proactive Early Intervention

The Case for Early Intervention

- An increase in demand for all "front door" child protection services, across all age groups
- 52.3% increase in referrals due to suspected abuse/neglect
- An overall increase in children becoming looked after, across all age groups
- 63.3% increase in children under the age of 1 with a child protection plan
- An increase in the numbers of 16 year olds requiring child protection services, including becoming looked after.

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What Works – Shared Multi-Agency Processes, Supported Through Co-location

- Southend: four staged integrated, targeted process of intervention delivered through three localities
- All partners including third sector signed up

For further
information visit

www.c4eo.org.uk

