

Mental Health and Children's Services Project

Update

Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family

5th Edition December 2011

Since the last Newsletter, the project has progressed steadily to influence and direct the provision of Mental Health and Children's Services.

A number of local and regional initiatives are highlighted in this Newsletter.

Five Project Locality Teams and the Voluntary Organisations Group

The five Project Locality Teams and Voluntary Workstream are currently working through the remaining Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) priority recommendations including assessment, care planning, treatment/ provision of care and reviewing care.

They are considering the changes required within practice to improve outcomes for parents with mental health issues and to minimise negative impacts on their children and on their families.

Adult and Children's Services Joint Protocol

The Adult and Children's Services Joint Protocol has been distributed by the Health and Social Care Board for implementation.

The Protocol introduces guidance for staff to follow when working with parents who have mental health problems and their children.

The information and direction within this protocol is applicable to staff working within any area of mental

health, adult and children's services.

The protocol is intended to complement and inform regional and local policies, procedures and guidance relating to assessment and treatment; safeguarding children; early intervention; family support; risk assessment; information sharing and should be used within the context of Professional Codes of Conduct and General Medical Council guidelines.

UNOCINI - A Guide to Understanding the Effect of Parental Mental Health on Children and their Family: June 2011

The UNOCINI guidance has been amended to better support staff in understanding

and identifying the needs of parents with mental health issues, and to support their children and families appropriately.

The guidance is now available on the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety's (DHSSPS) website and it is being disseminated throughout the Health and Social Care Trusts.

Available at:

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/ssi/oss-childrens-services.htm

SCIE Report 44: Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family: Interim Evaluation Report

SCIE have recently published an interim report which evaluates the first year of implementation in the sites in England and Northern Ireland. It captures learning about how to implement the 'Think Child,

Think Parent, Think Family' Guide; and evaluates early indications of the impact of implementing the guidance in a local area.

The report emphasises the involvement of a range of professionals across children's services, acute and community adult mental health services, and the voluntary sector in making whole family working a reality. The report is available on the SCIE website.

The final evaluation report will be published in Spring 2012.

SCIE Guide 30: Parental Mental Health and Child Welfare: A guide for adult and children's health and social care services

This guide has been updated (launched on 1st December 2011) to reflect the work of the Think Family project and

includes all policy context changes as well as a section on the Northern Ireland policy context. The new guide is available on the SCIE website: www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide30/

E-Learning on Parental mental health and their families

SCIE has developed e-learning materials on the theme of parental mental health and families. This training has been developed from the 'Crossing Bridges' training resource.

It comprises eight e-learning modules which are interactive and provide basic training in Family Centred working for professionals in both health and social care. This resource, which is free of

charge, can be completed through self study or group training and is delivered in an accessible and engaging way.

It modules are as follows:

- **Introducing the family model;**
- **Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family;**
- **Working together with parents;**
- **Working together with professionals;**
- **Care planning and review;**
- **Interventions;**
- **Managing complexity and leading practice;**
- **Communicating with families**

For more information log on to:

www.scie.org.uk/publications/elearning/index.asp

Staff, Service Users and Carers' Views: Family Experience Survey

The views of staff, service users, carers and their children are integral to the development/progress of the Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family project.

The surveys have been available to complete since February 2011 and to date responses has provided useful information. These findings have influenced and will continue to influence the progress of the project.

It is important that a wide range of people; staff, service users, carers and children complete the questionnaire throughout the duration of the project so that there is comprehensive evidence regarding the outcomes of

Mental Health and Children's Services.

To access the questionnaire online or hard copy log on to www.hscboard.hscni.net/thinkfamily/ and click on the 'survey' link.

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Useful Links and Resources

All materials listed above as well as other information and training resources relating to the project are available at www.hscboard.hscni.net/thinkfamily/