**Supporting Families (SF) & Early Help (EH) Network Meeting**

**19th January 2017 – Brixham**

**@The Barn – Action for Children**

**09:30-11:30 hrs**

Introduction (VM):

Welcomed everyone and provided update on developments with the TSCB with regards to the formation of the Early Help Working Group. Created to provide direction and clarity to Early Help. Identifying 6 priorities

* Universal understanding of Early Help
* Clear processes including pathways and paperwork
* Clearly defined thresholds
* Better communication & information sharing
* Better outcomes for children & young people
* Support for practitioners to understand work in Early Help

Group were asked to feedback on the following aims

To develop a shared understanding of what ‘Early Help’ means for Torbay?

And what do we need to communicate for a shared understanding?

1. **Lack of understanding of what’s available.**

Widely acknowledged that for practitioners it is often unclear as to what services are available and where to get that information.

**Please see following resources available:**

For all resources and policies regarding Early Help including the EH Offer from partner agencies -

[**http://www.torbay.gov.uk/children-and-families/services-and-support/early-help/**](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/children-and-families/services-and-support/early-help/)

For Torbay’s directory of family services – Torbay’s Family Information Service

[**http://fis.torbay.gov.uk/kb5/torbay/fsd/home.page**](http://fis.torbay.gov.uk/kb5/torbay/fsd/home.page)

**Or Tel: 01803 208100 to speak to an advisor on either of these services.**

2 **- Consistency across Devon**

No anti natal services only postnatal services in Torbay. AFC provider for both,

Commissioning arrangements different. (Michelle Rickesby)

VM to feedback to EHWG and MR.

3 - **Developing efficiencies in paper work?**

Group did not reflect any significant concerns regarding the administration process. Recognition was provided for the reasons that an in-depth assessment is required. It was expressed however that discussing these factors with families can be difficult given the nature of some roles.

Confidential Post-It Feedback

*‘Housing Pathway’*

*‘Newsletter to Partners’*

*‘Social Workers not stepping down to Early Help from CP/CiN’*

*‘Where ever possible think of handholding people when directing them to a partner service: bring them along, stay for at least the beginning of the meeting.’*

*‘Can be confusing if you are asked to be lead professional when you haven’t completed Early Help Referral Form and don’t see a copy of it or understand why it was completed.’*

Ref. What needs to happen

Monthly Newsletter?

Communication

Network Meeting?

Training?

Online Directory?

Identified Barriers in the during the break…

Not enough service provision at that level – family practitioners

Early Engagement with Family’s in EH difficult

Housing Support

Environmental Housing?

Hand holding to engage with service

Finances

Weight of EH administration on schools

Step Down from CP to EH

**Presentations:**

**Julie Hurrell – Home Start –** [**http://www.home-start.org.uk**](http://www.home-start.org.uk)

Providing Low Level 2 parent championing and volunteer support

Parent volunteers always welcome.

Groups about to start.

Contact [Jhurrell.homestart@gmail.com](mailto:Jhurrell.homestart@gmail.com) for further enquiries

**Richard: Fire Service Presentation –** [**https://www.dsfire.gov.uk**](https://www.dsfire.gov.uk)

Info on Home/Fire Safety Checks, including Fire Setters Programme. Involved with Police in DV cases, providing safety measures for victims. A point raised yesterday where the Fire Service weren’t routinely informing the schools when a pupil is being supported by the Fire-setter program. Update of this process is now being reviewed and now there is a process in place where schools will be updated.

Contact [rmorris@dsfire.gov.uk](mailto:rmorris@dsfire.gov.uk) or Tel: 0800 0502999

**Early Help Required Needs**

1. Parenting Programme
2. Families of Offenders

Positive Formulating Discussions re Schools Coffee Mornings as possible avenue for group based interventions & communicating to families for services.

**Summary – Supporting Families (VM)**

Ref Slide Handouts

VM to send out latest SFOP

Partners would like to see Early Help offers that reflect supporting families criteria? Housing & Health specialists etc..ASB?

Thank you for your attendance, we are planning the next meeting within the Paignton Community and as soon as this has been finalised we will let everyone know. If you should have any items for the next meeting, please email [nadia.cooper@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:nadia.cooper@torbay.gov.uk)

Steve Leech

**Supporting (Troubled) Families - Torbay**

**Team Around The Family Advisor**

**The Barn**Brixham Enterprise Estate  
Rea Barn Road  
Brixham  
TQ5 9DF

**Mobile:** 07825230348 **Email:** [steve.leech@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.mooney@torbay.gov.uk)