

Family Keywork in East Sussex

Update: January 2015

For more information about any of the items below or to be added to the circulation list, please email Family.Keywork@eastsussex.gov.uk or call 01273 335966.

You can also follow us on Twitter @FamilyKeywork

Family Keywork in East Sussex is a multi-agency approach to improving outcomes for families identified as at risk of requiring repeated interventions or sanctions. It aims to provide earlier, coordinated and more effective support to whole families whilst reducing the long-term costs to local services. Family Keyworkers work in partnership with the family for an extended period of time, identifying strengths and issues, agreeing priorities for change and offering both support and challenge.

Alongside this, the Government's 3-year Troubled Families programme offers Attachment Fees and Payment-by-Results for local authorities that can turn around families in which members are involved in crime and anti-social behaviour, are unemployed and / or missing education.

Troubled Families target achieved!

As part of the national Troubled Families programme running from 2012-15, East Sussex has a target of working with and improving specific outcomes for 1015 families. We have exceeded our overall engagement target as we have worked with 1113 families. We have been able to claim positive results for 726 families, which is 72% of our target. This qualifies us to join the new Troubled Families programme ahead of April.

The new Troubled Families programme

The new Troubled Families programme is due to be rolled out nationwide from April 2015. The new programme is quite different and will require us to track and report on the progress of families in six key areas:

- Involvement in crime or antisocial behaviour
- Attendance at school
- Amount of help needed from targeted Early Help or Social Care services
- Worklessness and financial exclusion
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Physical and mental health

As part of the preparation for the new programme, we will be mapping the strategic priorities of partner agencies in relation to these six areas to make sure that the work undertaken with families is aligned to and has an impact on what we all want to achieve locally. If you are a strategic lead in any of these six areas and would like to discuss how your agenda fits with the new Troubled Families programme, please email Becky.Surman@eastsussex.gov.uk.

THRIVE conferences in November

Practitioners from agencies across East Sussex met recently for a series of conferences to review the progress of THRIVE so far and to look to the future once the project ends in March 2015. The key message was that 'THRIVE is coming to an end, but the new ways of working and new systems that have been developed will continue.'

Feedback was very positive, with 84% of participants rating the morning session as good or excellent, and 90% rating the afternoon practice development workshops as good or excellent.

Domestic abuse training for Early Help practitioners

In response to requests from Early Help practitioners working with families in which there is lower risk domestic abuse, we have developed a one-day course entitled '**Supporting safe change in families experiencing domestic abuse**'. The course will support practitioners to identify abuse, understand the dynamics of an abusive relationship and learn about the legislation related to domestic abuse and families. It will enable participants to assess risk of harm using the DASH risk indicator checklist, including how to determine changes in risk, how to develop effective and appropriate safety plans, and how to undertake case management for those experiencing domestic abuse.

Course dates:

- ❖ 27th February 09:30-16:30 St Mary's House, Eastbourne

To apply, please email sis.training@eastsussex.gov.uk. Further dates for the rest of the year will be available soon.

New mental health learning programme

Practitioners have been asking for more opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding around mental health. In response, we are pleased to announce a new blended learning programme that is focused on the learning needs of those working directly with families.

The programme includes two brand new eLearning modules and a ½ day workshop. These are as follows:

- 1. Understanding and promoting mental health and wellbeing – eLearning module 1.** This will support practitioners to explore how they can promote the mental health and wellbeing of themselves and others.
- 2. Understanding adult mental health issues and supporting families – eLearning module 2.** This builds on the knowledge gained in module 1. It helps practitioners:
 - understand the difference between a mental health issue and mental illness
 - recognise the signs and symptoms of mental illness
 - learn how to talk to someone about their mental health
 - know when and how to refer to a range of local mental health services if needed
- 3. The impact of adult mental health on children and young people – ½ day workshop.** This workshop is facilitated by CAMHS and LSCB colleagues. The workshop will support practitioners to:
 - recognise the signs and indicators of mental illness in adults
 - understand the impact that mental illness can have on parenting
 - identify risks and impact on children and young people living with parents with mental health issues
 - further explore interventions and services available to support families experiencing these issues

The **eLearning modules** can be accessed via the new East Sussex County Council Children's Services Learning Management System (LMS). This gives practitioners the freedom to learn at their own pace, whenever and where they want. [To register and get started click on this link.](#)

Workshop dates:

- ❖ 29 January 14:30-17:30 at BPE Business Connections (Old Print Works), Wharf Road, Eastbourne
- ❖ 26 March 14:30-17:30 at YHA Southdown, Itford Farm, Beddingham, Lewes

To apply, please email sis.training@eastsussex.gov.uk. Further dates for the rest of the year will be available soon.

Changes to the Family Keywork Central Team

We are pleased to welcome Phil Brown as our new Data Manager. We will also soon be joined by Samantha Gillam from Children's Centres, who will be leading on Information Governance for the new TF programme. We are currently looking to recruit a Practice Change Manager to lead practice development work across Family Keywork services, and are also seeking a new Admin Assistant as Nathaniel Greer leaves us to take up his new post in Southwark Children's Services. If you are interested in either post, please visit the [East Sussex County Council recruitment page](#).