

Family Keywork in East Sussex

Quarterly Update: January 2014

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. Family Keywork is part of THRIVE and is a top priority for the East Sussex Strategic Partnership.

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. In East Sussex, we are using this funding to pump-prime our local services to embed Family Keywork.

Family Keyworker Networking Days

A big thanks to everyone who helped make the Family Keywork networking events in October such a success. The days were attended by more than 100 keyworkers and feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with the great majority of keyworkers rating the various aspects of the day as 'good' or 'excellent'.

The events were the first time that so many keyworkers from across all the keywork teams have been able to get together, and were a great opportunity to reflect on how far we have come over the past year and also to discuss challenges and further developments.

The lunchtime marketplace provided keyworkers with the chance to chat to a number of partner organisations working in the community to support families.

Eleven workshops were offered so that every keyworker could tailor their afternoon to suit their own development needs.

An evaluation report and copies of the morning presentations are available on our czone webpages.



Networking at the Wellshurst marketplace

Multi-agency Reflective Practice sets for Family Keyworkers

From April, a series of multi-agency Reflective Practice sets will begin for keyworkers across the county. These will be facilitated by senior colleagues from ESCC's Swift and Targeted Youth Support services and will run every three months for around two hours. They will help build stronger peer support networks and provide a regular opportunity for developing practice through case discussion. If you are a keyworker and haven't yet registered your interest, please speak to your line manager.

Additional employment support for families

We are pleased to announce that from the end of February, two full-time Employment Advisors from Job Centre Plus will be seconded into the Family Keywork programme. They will be co-located with operational teams in Eastbourne (St Mark's House) and St Leonards (Ocean House), and in due course will visit all keywork teams in all services to explain their role and what they can offer.

This approach is already happening in many local authorities around the country and is proving effective in supporting families and keyworkers to think about employment as a key issue in improving longer-term outcomes and family resilience. The Employment Advisors will be able to visit and get to know families alongside keyworkers as part of the family plan, working on a case by case basis to ensure that families and the adults in families receive individualised support.

Troubled Families programme update

So far, we have engaged 618 families across East Sussex from our 3-year target of 1015 families. Some of these will be getting keywork support whilst others will be getting another type of help. We have been able to claim payments under the Government scheme for successes with 175 of these families, in particular where children are back in school and levels of crime and anti-social behaviour are down. We expect to increase this number further when we submit our next claims in February.

We are currently waiting to hear more details from the government about the new Troubled Families programme starting in April 2015, and will be consulting on this in the next few months.

SEND Reforms: Information events 20th & 29th January

Information events are being held in Eastbourne from 9am-1pm for colleagues from ESCC and Health working with children and young people with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities. These will cover the underlying principles of the reforms, the new Education Health & Care plans for children and young people, and the revised statutory assessment process. If you would like further information or to attend one of the sessions, please contact Sarah.Lindfield@eastsussex.gov.uk.

Changes to the Family Keywork Central Team

We are delighted to welcome Alex Potter as the new Family Keywork Data Analyst. Alex has experience of working with families as well as expertise in the field of data, and she is a welcome addition to the Central Team.

We would also like to congratulate Helen Donelan on her new post as Business Manager for Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board. Helen will be leaving the FKW Central Team in mid-February to start her new role. Many of you will know Helen from the fantastic work she has done as Practice Change Manager, and we are sure you will join us in wishing Helen all the best for the future.

The Family Keywork Central Team and responsibilities

Becky Surman	Family Keywork Coordinator: leads the overall programme
Celia Wilson	Integrated Working Manager: leads on audit and reporting
Helen Donelan	Practice Change Manager: supports the workforce to develop and use the tools and practices needed for the Keywork role
Karen Crouch	Project Officer: Troubled Families eligibility 'hotline', Small Grants Fund, Keywork Advisory Network, general project administration
Alex Potter	Data Analyst: collection, analysis and reporting of information
Jan Walls	Project Officer: Small Grants Fund, czone