

Family Keyword in East Sussex

Update: March 2013

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

You can now follow us on Twitter @FamilyKeyword

Family Keyword 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 up to 18 months, identifying strengths and issues, agreeing priorities for change and offering both support and challenge. Family Keyword 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 Keyword.

Final call for Troubled Families grant applications

The closing date for grant applications is **Wednesday 17th April**. Applications are invited from services or schools with an interest in developing and delivering the locally-designed embedded Keyworker model and working with families identified as eligible using the Troubled Families criteria. The Attachment Fee per family for 2013/14 is £2000. To register for an application pack please email Family.Keyword@eastsussex.gov.uk or call 01273 335966.

Employment support for families

An important part of Family Keyword is helping the adults in workless families to develop employment skills, access employment opportunities and sustain employment. We recognise that most of our Family Keyword services do not have particular expertise in employment, and so we are working closely with JobCentre Plus to develop the 'Family Champion' role. Family Champions are employment advisors who will provide advice and guidance for Family Keyworkers to help them develop employment pathways for workless adults. For example this could involve priority access to employment support programmes; basic skills courses such as IT, literacy and numeracy; help with CVs, applications and interviews; where to look for work and also support for staying in work, recognising that it isn't always easy for parents to maintain a job when the family has multiple and complex needs. The Family Champions will also be able to give advice on benefits for working families.

For more information about the Family Champions or to access support for a family you are Keyworking, please contact Amanda.Brookes@JobCentrePlus.gsi.gov.uk or call 07778 133136.

Level 4 Award for Family Keyworkers

As part of the learning & development programme available to Family Keyworkers, we are offering the opportunity to achieve a City & Guilds Level 4 qualification, specifically designed for practitioners supporting families with multiple and complex needs. This will be offered free of charge to Family Keyworkers in Children's Centres and those funded through the Troubled Families grant. The award takes around four months to achieve and will be offered this year to three cohorts, with further cohorts to follow in 2014-15. Family Keyworkers have already been asked to express an interest and will shortly receive information about the application process and course delivery. For details of the course, click here:

[Level 4 Award Working with Parents: Intense support for families with multiple and complex needs](#)

'Troubled Families' criteria and local discretion

In order to be included in the Government's Troubled Families programme, a family has to meet two out of the following three criteria:

- A young person involved in crime or anyone in the family involved in anti-social behaviour
- A child or young person missing education due to exclusion or persistent absence
- An adult in the family on DWP out-of-work benefits

At times it has been challenging to include families identified as local priorities due to the rigid particulars of each criterion, especially in relation to missing education and anti-social adult crime. Following successful lobbying by a number of local authorities including East Sussex, the Government has agreed that we can adopt a 'common sense' approach to applying the criteria. This is a welcome announcement and will enable us more effectively to target the Troubled Families programme at those families seen as priorities and at Level 3 of the THRIVE Continuum.

Early Help conference

East Sussex Children's Services are pleased to invite colleagues from early help services to attend a free one-day conference. An early help service is one offering support to families with emerging or escalating problems, in which there are children identified as vulnerable and/or a safeguarding risk. Family Keywork services offer early help and so the conference is open to all Family Keyworkers, regardless of whether or not they work directly for ESCC.

The conference takes place on Thursday 25th April at The Cavendish Hotel in Eastbourne, and is repeated on Thursday 2nd May at Wellhurst Golf Club in Hellingly. For more information about the day or to book a place, please email crypt.enquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk.

Welcome to the Early Help Senior Practitioner team

We are very happy to welcome Jo Nash, Lynda Corbett and Michelle Brown – the new Early Help Senior Practitioner team. The posts have been created as part of the Early Help strategy and in line with the Munro Review of Child Protection. The purpose of the role is to strengthen the safeguarding advice and support available to early help services, including all Family Keywork services. This is very important in ensuring that all Family Keyworkers have the skills, knowledge and confidence to provide effective interventions and improve outcomes for families.

So far, the team has helped to deliver core training and is supporting Family Keyworkers to get started with families, as well as offering casework advice.



Children's Centres Keyworker training

Following the service review of Children's Centres, the Family Outreach Service (FOS) practitioners are to become 'Children's Centre Family Keyworkers', with a remit for working with whole families in which at least one of the children is aged 0-5. Core training was attended by 62 Children's Centres Family Keyworkers at the end of March, ahead of starting in their new roles from April.

The Family Keywork Central Team and responsibilities

Becky Surman	Family Keywork Coordinator; leading the embedding of FKW and TF initiatives
Celia Wilson	Information management, reporting and audit
Jan Walls	Keywork Advisory Network and Small Grants Fund
Helen Donelan	Workforce development and family participation