



Improving Local Practice Key Messages from the Multi-agency Audit on Early Intervention Processes

Evidence clearly shows early intervention to promote wellbeing and prevent harm and abuse, leads to the best outcomes for children and young people.

The BSCB multi-agency audit on early intervention processes focused on whether key agencies have in place processes that support appropriate and prompt early intervention and awareness about appropriate specialist panels and services to which referrals can be made.

What we did well

The audit highlights positive practice in the areas set out below.

1. Agencies are aware of a variety of local early intervention and more targeted support services and refer children and their families to these services.
2. Agencies utilise in house/ intra-agency support services to provide support at an early stage.
3. Generally appropriate child protection referrals are made.
4. Services initiate Common Assessment Framework (CAFs) or are engaged in CAFs initiated by other agencies.
5. Supervision is used regularly by the majority of agencies in the management and review of cases and utilised when deciding to close a case.
6. Case drift is addressed through reviewing progress regularly at meetings/ case files. Supervision is also used by the majority of agencies to review case progress.
7. Case outcomes are monitored by agencies.

Areas for development

Areas for development locally include:

8. Systematic and coherent collation of information on case outcome and effectiveness of interventions.
9. The assessment of risk was not defined in the tool and a relatively small number of agencies identified this as part of their process for reviewing cases. Future audits should clarify this area.
10. The voice of children and young people is not systematically captured by all agencies, although agencies do look at case outcomes.
11. Sharing good practice in supervision and case closure.
12. Family homelessness remains a priority.

13. There has been an increase in numbers of children with a disability. Given the known vulnerability of children with disabilities to potential abuse or harm, the Board should maintain its focus and awareness raising activity on this area.

Key Actions Taken

1. Audit programme altered to ensure early intervention issues identified and how agencies capture the voice of child.

Further Actions for BSCB

2. BSCB to share the findings of this audit particularly good practice in case monitoring and closure with practitioners at a planned Safeguarding network event on 5th March 2014 and through the BSCB Newsletter.
3. Learning from this audit to be embedded in training on safeguarding supervision.

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