

VULNERABLE FAMILIES PATHWAY NEWSLETTER

4th Edition, July 2010

This is the fourth edition of the vulnerable families pathway newsletter which gives you the most up to date information on the progress of the multi-agency project being led by NHS Quality Improvement Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Reminder of the aim and objectives of the project

If you're new to our newsletter, or just need reminded, we thought it might be useful to reiterate the purpose of this project.

♦ Aim

The aim of the framework is to ensure that vulnerable children (from conception to age 3) and families in all parts of Scotland receive equity of support that is proportionate, effective and timely.



♦ Objectives

- Develop a multiprofessional and multi-agency framework for pregnancy and early years to implement or enhance local pathways of support for children and families with additional needs.
- Support the delivery of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) as the common approach to ongoing seamless assessment and care planning from pregnancy through the early years within a multiprofessional and multi-agency context.
- Develop guidance to support a consistent approach to meeting the needs of children and families.

What's new?

♦ Programme Officer appointed

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Linda Davidson as Programme Officer on the project for 6 months from May 2010. Linda will support Mairead in leading the project on a part-time basis. Linda's substantive post is Senior Social Worker, Early Years Assessment Team in the Borders and we are delighted to welcome her to the project.

What has happened in the project since the last newsletter?

◆ Consultation

The consultation on the draft framework is now closed. Thank you to everyone who sent us their comments, we received approximately 100 submissions from a range of agencies, groups and individuals.

Overall, there was consensus on the content of the framework in general. Emerging themes that were welcome, include:

- The clarity that the framework provides in relation to multiagency working
- Recognising that to effectively manage change requires resources (time, money, staffing) particularly in the current economic climate

- Uniting the various policy components of the framework in an integrated way, to avoid duplication and focus on interagency working and training and development for local practitioners
- Identification of the role/function of the lead professional / named person which was unclear to some who are unfamiliar with GIRFEC
- Recognition of support for implementation

The feedback we have received will now help us to shape the final framework.

Actions arising from the consultation for the project team include:

- Liaise with GIRFEC, Hall 4 and Maternity Services National agendas to share comments from the consultation in respect of these individual work streams
- Further define pathways using examples of single and multi-agency pathways from local areas
- Include processes and lessons learned from the road-testing workshops
- Consider the comments regarding the layout of the document with our design team
- Link in existing work regarding other national agendas such as long-term conditions, Quality Strategy etc to ensure synergy and to support the local delivery of the framework.

'Road Testing' the Draft Framework

We have worked with three areas in Scotland to support implementation and develop the final content of the framework. We visited Fife, East Renfrewshire and Clackmannanshire where we carried out a process mapping exercise and used the model for improvement to action plan the outcomes from these events. We would like to thank all three areas for enabling us to carry out the workshops with them and we will continue to work with these groups to support the implementation of the framework and to share best practice.

If you would like your local area to be involved in similar sessions in the future please contact a member of the project team.

Steering Group Meeting

The steering group met for a final workshop session on Wednesday 30th June. At this meeting the group considered some of the comments received during the consultation feedback which required further exploration.

Areas that required further discussion from the steering group were:

- **Title**
 - The majority of respondees preferred the suggested title "Pre-birth to 3: A collaborative framework for responding to need and improving outcomes". Other suggestions from the consultation were provided and suggested amendments were discussed.
- **Child's Plan**
 - What do we understand as the child's plan held within a universal service provision for all children? Some comments demonstrated a lack of understanding around the components of the child's plan from conception – 3 years for children who do not have additional needs.
- **Child's needs v family engagement**
 - How do we resolve the conflict between the child's needs (which are not necessarily a priority for the family) and the need for family engagement?
- **Voluntary sector and GPs**
 - How do we effectively reflect the voluntary sector and GPs in the final framework?
- **Labelling**
 - How do we clearly articulate the process outlined and the benefits of the framework within a climate of complexity and "labelling" from, for example, GIRFEC, Hall 4, Early Years Framework, Equally Well?
- **Compliance**
 - How do we ensure compliance with the framework?
- **Transition**
 - From 3 years, how do we embed this in the framework?

The information from this workshop will now shape the final framework document.

What are we going to do . . .

♦ in the next few months?

- Work with the test sites to build on the initial action plans from their workshops
- Refine the framework document in light of the consultation comments, the steering group workshop, comments and outcomes from the test sites and the Scottish Government
- Publish the final document by January 2011
- Work alongside services to provide initial support for implementation.

Timeline



How to keep updated

◆ **Newsletter**

- Our distribution list for our newsletter keeps on growing and we are pleased that so many of you are finding the newsletter informative. If you would like further hard copies of the newsletter or would like to be added to our distribution list (for hard or electronic copies) please contact Dawn (Dawn.Robb@nhs.net – 0131 623 4743).

◆ **Website**

- Visit our website at www.vulnerablefamilies.org for further information and to let us know what you think.

For further information on the project please contact:

Mairead Hughes (part-time)

Programme Manager – Vulnerable Pathways

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

Mairead.Hughes@nhs.net

0131 623 4286

Linda Davidson (Mondays and Tuesdays)

Programme Officer – Vulnerable Pathways

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

Linda.Davidson7@nhs.net

0131 623 4305

Fiona Dagge-Bell

Clinical Development and Improvement Team Leader

Woman's, Children's and Specialist Services

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

Fiona.Dagge-Bell@nhs.net

0131 623 4340

Joanne McDonald

Programme Co-ordinator

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

Joanne.McDonald@nhs.net

0131 623 4350

Dawn Robb

Administrative Officer

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

Dawn.Robb@nhs.net

0131 623 4743
