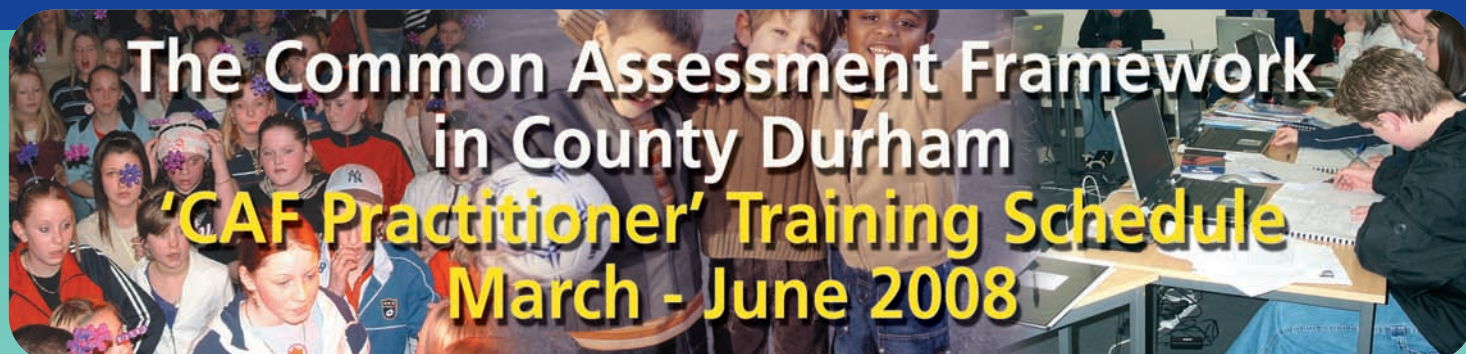




# Every Child Matters in County Durham

Edition 15 May 2008



## April 2008

Tues 1st Apr	Durham Dales	Wed 23rd Apr	Durham & Chester-le-St.
Wed 2nd Apr	Durham Dales	Thurs 24th Apr	Durham & Chester-le-St.
Thurs 3rd Apr	Easington	Tues 29th Apr	Easington
Tues 22nd Apr	Easington	Wed 30th Apr	Easington

## May 2008

Thurs 1st May	Durham & Chester-le-St.	Tues 13th May	Easington
Tues 6th May	Durham & Chester-le-St.	Wed 14th May	Easington
Wed 7th May	Easington	Tues 20th May	Sedgefield
Thurs 8th May	Easington	Wed 21st May	Sedgefield

## June 2008

Tues 3rd Jun	Durham & Chester-le-St.
Wed 4th Jun	Durham & Chester-le-St.

To request a place on these training sessions please contact the relevant Children's Services Locality Officer below, places are limited:

LCB Area	Contact	Tel. No.	e-mail
Derwentside	Malcolm Pitt	01207 523615	malcolm.pitt@cdpct.nhs.uk
Durham & Chester-le-St.	Allison Underwood	0191 387 5907	allison.underwood@durham.gov.uk
Durham Dales	Chris Mackay	01388 746740	chris.mackay@durham.gov.uk
Easington	Fiona Callaghan	01429 837635	fiona.callaghan@durham.gov.uk
Sedgefield	Maria Coad	01740 664 023	maria.coad@durham.gov.uk

## Rollout of the CAF

As the roll out of the CAF continues we thought it would be interesting to hear a "CAF experience".

ECM talks to Julie and Alison, Practitioners from Dene Community School of Technology in Peterlee

### How did you identify the family in the first instance?

"We were working with one child who had several issues that were not being resolved. These were also impacting on other family members. It appeared that the whole family and extended family needed help and support.

Having tried with no success to move things forward we felt that carrying out a CAF would help identify the complex needs and help us to work with the whole/extended family and improve their lives.

### What agencies were involved in the process?

The family already had agencies involved with them but these were not necessarily working together and not looking at the whole needs of the family, but of the individuals within the family. By completing the CAF it meant that agencies such as CAMHS, Children and Young People's Services, Police, and the voluntary sector etc all worked together to help to improve the family's lives. By all getting

together around a table and discussing the family's situation has been invaluable.

### What did completing the CAF involve?

The form is quite lengthy and complex, but don't let that put you off. The benefits outweigh the time that it takes to complete.

### Has the outcome been positive for the family?

The family have made great progress and things are improving for them. The family's experience has also been positive and they were happy to be involved. From their perspective having a lead professional and one assessment means that they are not having to deal with lots of agencies and going through all their individual assessment processes.

### Would you use the CAF again?

Yes, most definitely. It will be much easier to complete next time, the more it is used the easier it will be. The CAF in our opinion is the most comprehensive and useful assessment tool that we have worked with and we were impressed by the way the tool pulls every thing together.

**Steph Tunstall - Business Support Manager  
Communications and Special Projects Team  
Children and Young People's Services  
Durham County Council, County Hall  
Durham DH1 5UG  
Tel: 0191 383 3984 (VPN 7700 3984)**

## Introducing the ISA Programme Team

The development of Information Sharing and Assessment (ISA) is key to establishing integrated working across Children's Services to children. The ISA Programme team is responsible for implementing the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), ContactPoint, and the Integrated Children's System (ICS).

### The Team

**Tony Clamp**, Information Sharing Programme Manager, is responsible for leading the team, and for ensuring that the team works effectively in partnership with key stakeholders to deliver the benefits of the programme to children and young people. Tony also manages the Integrated Children's System project.

**Steven Bowyer**, Project Manager - CAF, is delivering the CAF across the county. This involves engaging staff from key partner agencies in participating in and using the CAF to improve outcomes for children and young people.

**Jane Harrison-Fawcett** is the ContactPoint Data Manager. Jane has responsibility for creating and managing county-wide data quality processes to ensure that accurate data is sent to ContactPoint.

**Andrew Bourguet** is Project Manager - Information Sharing. He will manage the implementation of ContactPoint, including rolling-out training and setting up the help desk.

The team can be contacted on 0191 383 3640 or via email

## Forthcoming CAF Practitioner Survey

In order to continually improve the delivery of training and support for CAF implementation your feedback is vitally important to us. We need your help to shape the way we support our workforce to deliver improved outcomes for children and families through the use of the Common Assessment and its processes. To do this we will be carrying out a survey of CAF trained practitioners in the next few weeks. If you are a trained CAF practitioner please watch out for your questionnaire, which will shortly be arriving either by e-mail, or by post.

We will also be carrying out one-to-one interviews and focus groups; you may be invited to take part. The ISA Programme Team will use the information to improve the way the CAF operates.

### ContactPoint update

ContactPoint will be a simple tool, allowing practitioners to see who else is involved with a particular child. Contact details will be provided so that, where appropriate, practitioners can share information or concerns about children and their welfare.

In response to public concerns about data security, the government recently commissioned Deloitte to carry out a security review of ContactPoint,. This concluded that the security measures which are being implemented for ContactPoint data are to the highest standards. Some changes have been recommended to the processes to ensure that these high standards are maintained.

This means that the full ContactPoint Project in County Durham is now continuing as planned, and it is intended that the tool will be available for practitioner use from the summer of 2009. More information will be made available as the project progresses.

You can read a summary of the Deloitte Security Review on the ContactPoint pages of the national Every Child Matters website at [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

## CAF E-Learning Package

To improve understanding of the CAF and its processes across all agencies, we are currently procuring a web-based e-learning package. This will enable practitioners to access a web-site, which will offer a brief training course on the CAF in County Durham. Practitioners who successfully complete the short course will receive a certificate of achievement. Following the full roll-out of the e-learning course, practitioners who undertake full CAF Practitioner training will be expected to complete the e-learning course successfully as part of their preparation.

Procurement of the e-learning course is expected to be completed by the end of March. Further information will be made available during the early spring of 2008.

### Managers Briefings

Successful implementation of the CAF and its processes is dependent upon the commitment and engagement of all

partners across the Children's Trust Workforce and at all levels within our partner organisations. Briefing sessions focussing on how Managers can ensure their staff are supported to use the CAF appropriately are currently being developed and will be rolled out across the County in the coming months.

### Practitioner Guide to CAF

The 1st Edition of 'The Common Assessment Framework in County Durham – Operational Guidance for Practitioners' has now been produced to enable CAF Trained Practitioners to understand and utilise local CAF processes and assist the implementation of the Common Assessment Framework. Subsequent editions of this guide will be produced as the CAF Project develops. If you have completed the CAF training but have not received your copy of this document, [please contact Janice Crawford/Steven Bowyer on 0191 383 3640.](#)

## The Key Improvement Priorities

The Children's Trust has agreed 12 Key Improvement Priorities as a focus for integrated service activity and delivery. Over the coming editions of the Every Child Matters newsletter, we will be providing a focus on one or more of the KIP's to share with you progress to date. The first of these focus articles is on the KIP to "Reduce the Number of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System".

### **County Durham Leads the Way!**

Reducing the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System is one of the 12 Key Improvement Priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan for County Durham; a LAA stretch target and a National Performance Indicator. First time entrants (FTEs) are young people in receipt of reprimands, final warnings and those who appear in court for the first time. Nationally and locally the number of first time entrants has risen, with nearly 70% of FTEs by way of a Police reprimand. Currently a young person and their family receive no support at the reprimand stage to identify unmet needs to prevent further offending.

There is significant evidence in County Durham that the use of reprimand and final warning has a negative impact on young people's employment opportunities as they remain on the young person's Police record up to five years after their 18th birthday. For jobs that are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, the reprimand or final warning will always have to be declared.

In 2007 the need for earlier targeted intervention was raised by the Youth Engagement Service and Durham Constabulary with Children's Executive Board (CEB) and the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB). With the support of all partners in the Children's Trust, the Youth Engagement Service and Durham Constabulary were encouraged to develop a creative solution to reduce the number of FTEs and improve outcomes for young people.

The result has been the introduction of an innovative pre reprimand disposal (PRD)

from April 1st 2008. This three year pilot will target young people ages 10 – 13, who commit their first offence and who would otherwise receive a criminal record. The PRD will be the first project to use the Common Assessment Framework on every young person referred. By using the emerging CAF structures at a local level, the PRD will bridge the gap between child welfare and criminal justice and identify common areas of unmet need for Local Children's Boards.

The PRD is a creative solution to tackle first time entrants, improve outcomes for young people and make efficient use of existing resources. It will include three elements:

- Assessment by CAF
- Intervention based on assessed need including parenting/ family support through the establishment of a Team around the Child where there is a need to involve additional agencies and services in delivering support to the child and family.
- Assisting the young person to understand the impact of their negative behaviour on others

By focusing on young people aged 10-13, we believe a third of reprimands in County Durham can be prevented – a vital step in tackling first time entrants, achieving the LAA stretch target and improving outcomes for young people.

The PRD has aroused significant interest at regional and national level progress will be closely watched. The spotlight is on County Durham and we will succeed with the continued support of all partners.