MINUTE BRIEFING 7

Knowsley Engaging Families Toolkit

The Engaging Families Toolkit is stored within the KSCP Multi Agency Procedures on the Safeguarding Children Board web site at the following LINK

Please click onto the Multi Agency Forms and Guidance tab to access the document.

6

This toolkit aims to provide practitioners and managers with guidance to assist with the effective engagement of families in the offer of support across all levels of intervention from early help and targeted services through to statutory services. The toolkit builds on research which is known to work in effectively engaging families. It aims to promote positive and lasting change for the whole family.

The toolkit will be shared with all practitioners that attend the Knowsley Threshold training sessions. However, the tool is self-explanatory and practitioners can gain tips and guidance by reading through the toolkit.

> This toolkit is to be used by all practitioners who work with Children and Families in Knowsley. It will provide practitioners with tips around good practice in engaging families and also provide a tool to document risks around the lack of engagement to be completed by the Multi Agency Team and discussed with a line manager.



Numerous research and evaluations show that developing an effective professional relationship makes a real difference in improving outcomes for service users. No matter how programmes and funding may change, it is the human relationships that are core to the delivery of effective services. Yet too often, they are overlooked. The Munro (2012) review highlighted the importance of professional relationships in improving outcomes for children and their families and the skills and experience of workers in being able to achieve this.

The toolkit provides guidance in recognising, understanding and responding to difficult to engage and risky behaviours which may be encountered when working with children and their parents and carers. It also provides a range of tools that practitioners can use to enable families to bring about change or to document risks associated with poor engagement.

A key feature in many serious case reviews has been the lack of persistence of workers to engage the family in the offer of support as well as the lack of co-operation and/or hostile attitude of a small number of parents/carers. When there is possible child wellbeing or immediate safeguarding concerns, a failure to engage with the family may have serious implications and non-intervention is not an option.

For more information regarding 7 minute briefings, please email sarah.herron@knowsley.gov.uk Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board, 2nd Floor, Nutgrove Villa, Westmorland Road, Huyton L36 6GA Tel: 0151 443 3859 www.knowsleyscb.org.uk