




TRANSFORMATION NEWS

We have re-shaped, we've changed; now we transform.

Transformation Event 

2 October 2019

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO EARLIER INTERVENTION (to support vulnerable families)

Children and Families Social Work is a set of statutory services aimed at supporting the most vulnerable children and families in Dumfries and Galloway. Our services should only support children subject to or at risk of abuse, children who are looked after, or at risk of becoming looked after, and children in need as defined by legislation. In supporting these children, we must also work with their families.

We must look at how we can reduce and avoid unnecessary social work intervention in families' lives. To help us identify opportunities to change the way we work and reduce the number of children and families we work with at a statutory level, we have brought managers and staff from across the Council together with colleagues from the NHS, Police Scotland and the Voluntary sector.

Presentations from the Intensive Family Support Service and Actin For Children showed how working in a different way with children and families and communities can have a significant positive impact on people's lives and this has potential to reduce the need for high cost statutory services in the future. The key messages from these presentations was that building strong and trusting relationships with people helped to enable them to make positive long term changes in their lives, and therefore were less likely to need formal or statutory support in the future. A challenge for us is to see how we can further develop this way of working.

SOME KEY FACTS

We have over **1,600** cases open to children and families social work.

We have **440** Looked After Children and young people.

We have **7** children and young people with disabilities placed in out of region care which cost **£1,241,939** per annum.

We have **11** children and young people placed in out of region placements which cost **£2,613,564** per annum.

We have **9** children in our own children's houses which cost **£1,291,409** per annum.

We have **114** children and young people living in foster care which cost **£1,484,987**.

We have **394** children and young people living in kinship placements which cost **£2,408,844** per annum.

We have **21** children and young people in adoptive placements which cost **£188,175** per annum.



FOCUS ON OUR PRIORITIES

Key Event Questions

The main objective of this event is to bring together key staff, partners and stakeholders to recognise what we currently do well and what we can do differently:

- For our children and young people?
- What are our thresholds for intervention?
- Which meets the needs and improves the life chances of our most vulnerable children and young people?
- How do we change the balance of care?

KEY MESSAGES from the workshops at the event

The things that we can do quickly to reduce the amount of social work intervention:

Attendees agreed that there were a number of things we could do quickly and easily, which would both reduce our travel and help the environment. These include:

- Divide crisis and early intervention
- Flexible workforce – 5/7
- Consider 9-day fortnight
- Review communication terms

What we will achieve by doing this:

- Better understanding
- More able to meet need
- Appropriateness of response

Opportunities to transform and remove the need for social work intervention:

- Co-production with Third Sector and internal partners
- Education of services and service users
Family centres?
- Utilising partner buildings – more appropriate spaces.

The difference this will make:

- When our intervention saves other departments money/budget – do we share the saving? Cross department co-production – transfer of saving/budget

The key challenges we face /enablers:

- Partners need to support combined budgets
- Flipping the balance of care

What's Next?

The discussions and ideas from this working session will be used to inform future Children and Families social work services. As with all other Transformation Events, this information will be used to develop options which will be presented to Members during October to December 2019.

All outputs from Transformation Events will be shared with the public as part of budget consultation later this year.



FOCUS ON OUR
PRIORITIES



CUSTOMER
AND DIGITAL



MODERNISATION



FEWER ASSETS



SMALLER SKILLED
WORKFORCE



INCOME
GENERATION