

Report: Chorley and South Ribble Localities September 2015.

Core Offer Use

Family Support: continues to be well used in both Chorley and South Ribble. There is often a waiting list which varies daily. The provider contacts Families on receipt of the Request for Support giving an indication of the waiting time and in Leyland as a result of some additional funding they are now able to offer an immediate drop in service. This appears to be going well.

Emotional Health & Wellbeing: this strand of the offer is also well used in both Localities. There is still capacity but this would not be available all year if used at the rate of the first quarter. Panels have had discussions about how this can be managed.

Domestic Abuse: have attended panel to raise awareness of their service. I don't receive a high number of requests for support for this service, although numbers are now increasing, this is partly due to encouraging Lead Professionals to ask questions about Domestic Abuse.

Parenting: this strand has not had good take up across the county, and Chorley and South Ribble are no different in this. Work is to be undertaken with the commission to look at local need and locally there will be support for the commission to get appropriate requests. This will include trying to involve our short stay schools; to ensure targeted parents who would benefit from courses are facilitated to attend.

Wider support

Within Wellbeing Prevention and early Help the take up of Requests for Support by Young People's Service and Children's centres has been a great support to the offer made to families along with the support of the Voluntary Sector.

Requests for Support

The majority of Requests for Support continue to come from our colleagues in education. They vary in quality: obviously being more appropriate where a professional has had direct discussion with the Co-ordinator first. There appears to be a greater understanding of the importance of the CAF, and professionals being more willing to undertake that assessment of a family: knowing services can then be put in place to meet that need. Not all requests come through the Co-ordinator as yet; although this should now be the process.

Panel attendance and issues

Panel has been well attended by most professionals in the quarter. Other professionals not indicated in the report regularly attending panel include Borough Council Colleagues, DWP (WTWF colleagues); Fire Service, and commissioned service representatives. The YOT and Drugs services are starting to attend when they have capacity to do so and Housing services will attend when there is a Request that requires their input.

Lead Professional Budget/Small Grants

The Lead Professional Budget for Chorley is nearly half spent in a quarter of the year and for South Ribble is over half spent in the first quarter of the financial year. It has been well utilised particularly after promoting its use to Children's centre staff. Requests have been submitted once professionals have exhausted their own sources; at times for a small family contribution is made. The funding requests are negotiated and carefully scrutinised.

Each district has had one Small grant submitted and approved this quarter these were both from the same organisation and offered additional funding to holiday provision for families. This leaves us with an underspend at this time of the year and I have been visiting voluntary organisations to share some of the areas of need being identified from Requests for support for them to consider possible applications. The two panels have also considered their priorities for spend.

CAF/CAF QA

Co-ordinators are now Quality Assuring CAFs from the local area, one per month, which are chosen at random. This is to look at compliance and quality issues; and Lead Professionals receive written feedback from this process. The Co-ordinator is available to offer informal support to Lead Professionals and has already attended some team meetings regarding use of CAF.