

Promoting First Response / embedding Family Intervention Projects

Details of project request

The Borough commissioned an adviser to:

- 1) support them in looking at promoting First Response (duty & assessment) through quality assurance mechanisms and awareness raising with other boroughs.
- 2) be involved in the development of the Strategic Commissioning Project set up to look at integrating services targeted at 14 -24 year olds
- 3) work with Haringey FIP to look at ways of embedding model across services

Details of work undertaken by LRSA

- 1) First Response - The LRSA initially began the work by meeting key managers and practitioners in the First Response multi-agency team based in Haringey offices. The LRSA also observed the various operations of the First Response MAT (FRMAT) and was able to offer written feedback to Haringey on strengths and areas for development. The LRSA brokered a meeting with C4EO to look at validating the work of the FRMAT. The FRMAT was eventually validated as “promising practice”. Feedback comments from C4EO included that the FRMAT was not yet able to evidence outcomes. In response to this, the LRSA led a FRMAT Development Day where the OBA model was introduced in order for the FRMAT to identify how it was impacting on the wider community / professionals / children and young people. This led to more detailed work on developing outcomes using this model.
- 2) Strategic Commissioning Project – The LRSA attended a number of Project meetings and was able to identify and signpost officers to good practice models both within London and across the country as well as linking the borough’s FIP to the Project, which hitherto was missing. Unfortunately, due to other borough priorities, this Project was put on hold.
- 3) Haringey FIP – the LRSA spent a number of days with the FIP observing practice as well as working with the FIP Manager to support evaluation of the Project. Whilst the commissioned work in itself was initially straightforward, due to ongoing strategic discussions about potential changes to Children’s Services, together with uncertainty about the future of the FIP, it has become difficult to fully complete this assignment. The LRSA intends to finalise engagement with the FIP by auditing a small sample of completed cases to gauge the level of input from Adult Services and also to look at outcomes.

Specific safeguarding outcomes achieved

This work overall has helped to improve multi-agency working in the borough as well as providing mechanisms for the FRMAT to self-evaluate itself more robustly. It has also helped to raise the profile of Haringey in a positive manner, for example, the FRMAT was invited to present at the annual London Board conference which was very well received by conference delegates. In addition, the added capacity and objectivity of the LRSA on both the Strategic Commissioning Project and work with the FIP has enabled the borough to be more focused on its priorities as well as to seek to target more effectively its resources in some elements of children’s services.

Next steps

In the process of this work the LRSA has supported the sharing of emerging good practice across London Boroughs in relation to duty and assessment models. A number of boroughs are also using the OBA approach through the QAF Pilots recently introduced.