

Children & Families Board

Children & Families Act - work in progress May 2014

Work strands & related activity

- C&F Act
- Assessment framework
- Education, Health and Care Planning
- The Local Offer
- Personal Budgets
- Preparation for adulthood
- Related activity
- Review and alignment of children's service commissioning CSF/CCG/PH
- Structures (CSC, Edn, Healths)
- Early Help commissioning
- Continuous improvement activity

Role of the new service

- Provide a 0-25 service across a continuum from signposting, to direct intervention to access to commissioned services
- Provide an integrated health, education and social care service based around the needs of the C/YP and their family.
- Be the joint access point for consideration of assessment, planning and review of single ECH plans
- Host the health navigation and oversight team
- Operate across the health, social care and education regulatory regimes.

This means

- Delivering statutory integrated assessment leading to an ECH Plan
- Delivering statutory children's social care functions for children with disabilities.
- Overseeing the contributions of the wider education, social care & health network to single or MA assessments & joint/single agency planning outside the ECH framework.
- Providing/securing timely, proportionate & personalised interventions based on assessed need
- Ensuring plans are reviewed & securing continuity and good transitioning

Eligibility criteria

- Children & YP 0-25 who have a need for a co-ordinated response from education, health & care services to achieve life outcomes; **and**
- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than others of the same age and who will need access to educational resources over and above that which is normally/universally available; **or**
- A disability/health condition which stops or hinders them from using educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age.

Our core offer

- A single agency assessment informed by other agencies of a MA assessment
- A named lead professional/case manager/ and or key worker
- Co-ordinated support via a plan (single or MA)
- Sign posting or access to services based on assessed need

Merton's Children's Trust Values

Our CT values will shape
our approach to implementing the
Children & Families Act

Keeping our C&YP at the heart of our services

- Fewest transition points
- Best practice single and MA assessment, planning and review
- C&YP engaged in their assessment, planning and review
- Clarity regarding lead professional, case holder, key worker and team around the child
- Supporting YP's resilience and independence and good preparation for adulthood

Equality, equity & valuing diversity

- Clear eligibility criteria
- Offering a continuum of services to meet a continuum of need
- Using evidence based approaches
- Ensuring robust QA and making the maximum difference to outcomes

Local accountability & partnership working – parents and carers

- Having parents and carers on the C&F Board
- Facilitating their engagement in service development and review
- Ensuring parents and carers engaged at all stages of assessing, planning and reviewing needs
- Providing direct support to parents

Local accountability & partnership working – commissioners and deliverers

- Aligning commissioning activity and driving value out of shared contracts (CCG; CSF; ASC; PH)
- Integrated service delivery
- Working to deliver a joined up local offer and to support needs being met in universal settings with:
 - colleges, schools and education settings, employment & training, and health, care providers
- Robust safeguarding and QA throughout

Striving for Continuous improvement

- Harnessing the broadest talents and expertise
- Seeking out good and best practice
- Using evidence based programmes
- Maintaining our focus on impact and outcomes
- Being ambitious for our C&YP
- Ensuring all our services meet national standards and are rated good or better by CQC/Ofsted

Promoting a learning culture

- Supporting our staff in maintaining professional competencies and expertise
- Developing generic competencies
- Actively supporting parents and carers develop their skills and expertise
- Actively supporting YP with developing skills for independence and pathways to adulthood

Listening to and valuing Children & Young People

- Involving YP in assessing their needs and planning their future services and pathways
- Involving young people in shaping services
- Involving YP in quality assuring the services they receive
- Ensuring the voice of the child is recorded and use all the tools at our disposal to ensure YP can actively feed in their views