

## CAF CHAMPIONS

CAF Champions are practitioners who are positive advocates for the CAF. They have experience of using the CAF and are able to support colleagues to do so. They understand how it works in practice and how it can improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

They will advise about the practicalities of being a Lead Professional, setting up Team Around the Family meetings and implementing the Distance Travelled Tool.

Please contact the CAF Coordinators if you would like to make contact with or become a CAF Champion.

The next CAF Champions meeting is at :

East Cowes  
Children's Centre  
Beatrice Avenue  
3.30-5.00pm  
on the 5th June  
2014.

## ECO-THERAPY PROGRAMME



Would you like to feel better about yourself by experiencing what nature has to offer?

Our 10 week programme aims to engage you on a journey of self-discovery using nature, ecology and the natural environment.

Our programme will help you:

- 🌿 enhance your self esteem
- 🌿 build confidence
- 🌿 have fun
- 🌿 build friendships
- 🌿 learn about nature
- 🌿 Workshops are interactive and aimed at helping you to feel connected and engaged with nature.

To book a place please visit [www.hamptontrust.org.uk/ecoadult](http://www.hamptontrust.org.uk/ecoadult) or email: [toby eaglen@hamptontrust.org.uk](mailto:toby eaglen@hamptontrust.org.uk)

Shide Ecotherapy Centre  
Shide Road, Newport, IOW, PO30 1HR  
t: 01983 530097  
w: [www.hamptontrust.org.uk](http://www.hamptontrust.org.uk)  
<http://www.facebook.com/hamptontrustecoprojection>



### REMINDER—TRAINING POSTPONED

WHILE THE CAF TEAM DEVELOP A NEW EARLY HELP ASSESSMENT WHICH WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING CAF FORMS WE HAVE DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE NEXT TWO TRAINING SESSIONS AS WE NEED TO AMEND THE CONTENT OF FUTURE TRAINING SESSIONS TO REFLECT THE CHANGES TO THE ASSESSMENT .

ISSUE  
**01**  
YOUR  
QUARTERLY  
CAF UPDATE  
FEBRUARY  
2014

# Early Help Express

## CAF TEAM COMMENDED

The CAF Team were commended at the recent Isle of Wight Council Employee Recognition Awards 2014.

The CAF team's success was in the Improving the Life Chances of Children & Young People category, well done Carol, Ruth and Dave!

## WELCOME TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT

On the 3rd February the Targeted Youth Support Team joined our Early Help Team . The team has gone through some staff changes and we are currently recruiting to build up the team to full capacity in the meantime the current team consists of:

- Troy Keasling
- Emma Cousins
- Leanne Godley
- Lisa Rodriguez



## CAF Outcomes Training—A professionals feedback.

I found the whole training package very easy to understand and well presented.

I found that by doing the action first it made the desired outcome easier to word. For me the desired outcome is now more precise because it links perfectly with the action. There were things that I was not doing i.e. making the completion date "on-going" or "ASAP". I now make a proper date even if it is at the next meeting. To also have feedback from parents has been really valuable to me as I now come away as TAF lead with what the parent thinks actually written down as opposed to just having a general conversation about how things are and I make sure this box is complete before I leave. Certain questions like "what are your thoughts on the TAF process" and "how do you feel things are going at the moment" as opposed to "are you happy with everything".

Which is quite airy fairy looking back. Also now I take the time for the children's voice and if I can I get them to draw a picture. I wouldn't necessarily put an observation in the child's box but instead I would have put it in the review notes box so now information is in the right place. I did a TAF meeting this week and have worked with the pre-school to get them to do a picture with the child as she is in pre-school more than what I would see her. I feel that this is good for me to get to see what the child is thinking when it is carried out by someone who is working with the child all the time. What a valuable training package that has now allowed me to do a more thorough and detailed job. Sorry there are more words than you asked for but could not say enough how valuable the training was. Please feel free to cut it down. Thank you to the team for their time.

Charmain

this issue  
Professionals Feedback **P.1**  
FGC **P.2**  
Locality Working **P.3**  
CAF Champions **P.4**

## EARLY HELP STATISTICS

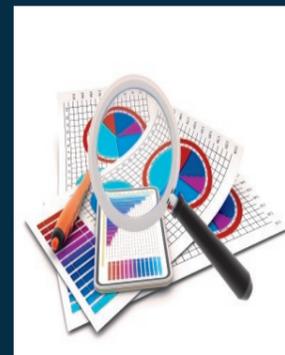
FGC - Families come up with good plans accepted within one study and 95% of plans accepted internationally

CAFs completed — January 2013 to December 2013 = 430

Children currently registered at all Island Children's Centre = 6,103

The number of enquiries dealt with by the FIZ Team in Quarter 3 2013 = 5,167

The number of Children & Young People the Targeted Youth Support Team worked with in 2013 = 153



On Monday February 10th the Family Group Conferencing service was launched, The new service will be offered to families who are open to a CAF. Jo Moore has recently been recruited as a Family Group Conference Coordinator. She has considerable experience working with families and is also fully qualified relationship and young person's counsellor. In addition to this Jo currently facilitates the Separated Parents Information Programme on behalf of CAFCASS which looks at the impact adult behaviour (often high conflict) can have on their children. If you have a family in mind please have a look at the information below and following that, if you would like to talk to Jo, she is offering a phone consultation to assess the suitability and referral process.

The defining features of the **FGC** process are:

- 1 The **FGC** is the primary decision making forum for the child.
- 2 The **FGC** is made up of as wide a network of family members as possible (including grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunts, parents, child, family friends who may know the child but are not blood relations).
- 3 A **FGC** co-ordinator facilitates the involvement of the child, family network and professionals in the Family Group Conference process.
- 4 The family should always have private time at the **FGC** to produce their plans for the child or young person.
- 5 The **FGC** plan should be agreed and resourced unless it places the child at risk of significant harm.

## Family Group Conferencing

**We asked Jo Moore the new FGC coordinator what we can expect from Family Group Conferencing?**

A Family Group Conference (**FGC**) is a structured decision making meeting made up of 'family' members. 'Family' is determined broadly, to include the child/children, parents, extended family and even significant friends and neighbours to the family who may not actually be blood related. This group of people are given 'private' time to reach a plan to facilitate the safe care and wellbeing of the child/children within the family home. All professionals are excluded from the private time, which is attended by family members only.

The principles that underpin the **FGC** process are:

- The child's interests are paramount.
- The child should have the resources made available for his/her voice to be heard.
- The child's views, feelings and solutions are as valid as the adults participating in the process.
- Children are generally best looked after within their families. Services should seek to promote this wherever possible.
- Working in partnership with families is beneficial for children.
- Families have the ability to make rational and sound decisions about their future and the future of the children involved.

For more details and to discuss the service you can contact Jo on 823171 Ext 6819 or by email [jo.moore2@iow.gov.uk](mailto:jo.moore2@iow.gov.uk)

## Early Help Service

The aim of early help is to provide families with timely and appropriate support to help prevent problems escalating to the detriment of children and families, by investing in effective community services and multi-agency co-ordination. The Isle of Wight Children and Young People's Strategic partnership recognises that the best outcomes are achieved when a combination of services work together to ensure that the whole family are able to work towards better life chances of their children.

Key aims are:

- Giving children best possible start in life;
- Whole family approach;
- Increasing self resilience;
- Intervening early to prevent longer term, more complex, more damaging and more costly problems;
- Evidence based approaches-knowing that the interventions you are delivering have been tried and tested;
- Offering the right help at the right time.

Future delivery building on key aims:

- Delivery co-ordinated through 3 x Early Help Hubs;
- Lead professionals supported by the hub to complete assessments and develop action plan;
- Staff within the hub will deliver some of the interventions;
- Children, young people and families understand process and are involved in design, delivery and evaluation of plans;
- Hub will monitor plans, quality assurance;
- Locality manager.

Key links to: Children's Centres, Health Visiting, School Nursing, Family and Parenting Support, Targeted Youth Support (TYS), Strengthening Families Programme, Accredited Community Support Officers (ACSO's), Family Group Conferencing (FGC), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and Voluntary, Community Sector (VCS).

FIZ—What we do!

The Family Information Zone (FIZ) provide comprehensive, accurate, up to date information on childcare, activities and other local support and services for parents of children and young people up to the age of 19 (up to the age of 25 years for children and young people with additional needs) . We actively encourage lead professionals and other professionals to contact us to help meet the needs of the families they are working with. Many of the families that have accessed us through their lead professional/support worker continue to access our service even after they no longer have this additional support from other services. Information and sign posting can be provided to families on family related subjects ranging from childcare and activities to funding and grants. Specialist information on services and activities for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) is also available. Information on activities and support groups can be found on our website [www.wightchyps.org.uk](http://www.wightchyps.org.uk). FIZ can be contacted on 821999 or [familyinfozone@iow.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfozone@iow.gov.uk)

## QUIZ TIME

No prizes I am afraid but the first correct answer gets a shout out in the next Early Help Express.

In 2013 which service/team completed the most CAFs?

Send your answers to [caf@iow.gov.uk](mailto:caf@iow.gov.uk)

## Meet the Team

**Name:**  
Stacey Gough

**Job Role:**  
Strengthening Families Key Worker and CAF Coordinator, North East Wight

**Favourite Food:**  
Hog Roast

**Favourite Film:**  
The Lion King

**What I like most about my Job:**  
Enabling families to make positive changes