

Meeting cont.

Draft definitions were circulated (paper 18/06a here <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/our-services/improving-social-care-information/review-approval-and-development/adult-review-group/adult-review-group-arg-meeting-7-may-2008>), along with a draft return. Comments on these were requested to be emailed to Kate Anderson by 22nd May (in time for the working group meeting on the 23rd).

It is proposed that this return will be introduced via a pilot in the summer/autumn, then all Authorities will complete it in 2009/10, although this does depend on how quickly it is accepted by SIGASC, etc.

Any other business

- It was noted that the SIGASC had agreed to collect NI 145/6 via the Key Stats Return (KST), but that that was one of the returns Robert's review had suggested should be deleted. The IC said it was more likely to be tagged on to the RAP Return.
- I asked about the change in deadline for the SSDA702 (Mental Health Return), after we had been formally notified last autumn. The IC were not aware of the change but agreed to follow it up with the Mental Health team who deal with this return.

Supporting vulnerable families Pathfinder projects

On 4th May, the government announced details of the 'Family Pathfinder' programme and named the 15 local areas where disadvantaged families will be offered intensive help and support.

Each of the 15 areas bid successfully to take forward the 'think family' approach, developed by the Cabinet Office's Social Exclusion Task Force. The approach aims to ensure that adults' and children's services join up to respond to the needs of whole families.

Six of the Family Pathfinders will also receive additional funding to deliver services for families with young carers. The aim is to help ensure that children in these families do not have to take on inappropriate caring roles.

The successful bidders are: Blackpool, Bolton, Brighton and Hove, Durham, Gateshead, Islington, Leeds, Salford, Somerset, Walsall, Warrington, Southampton, Southend, Sunderland and Westminster

The six areas that will receive additional funds for young carers services are Islington, Gateshead, Sunderland, Bolton, Somerset and Leeds.

The Family Pathfinder project was announced in the Children's Plan, making £16 million available in 2008-2011 for delivery of up to 15 Family Pathfinders (£13m) and up to six pathfinder areas to deliver Extended Family Pathfinder for Young Carers (£3m).

The Think Family approach was developed in the Cabinet Office by the Social Exclusion Task Force. It builds on the learning from effective whole family

support packages such as Family Intervention Projects.
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social-exclusion-task-force.aspx

'What-Works?' Evidence-informed commissioning for vulnerable groups

The Social Exclusion Task Force, in partnership with Barnardo's, Research in Practice (RIP) and the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) is developing a user friendly tool to assist commissioners and service providers in the selection and monitoring of evidence-based programmes for those that are most vulnerable in our society.

The tool will include some of the following themes:

- Use of research evidence in service design
- Locating relevant research evidence
- Assessing and appraising research evidence
- Outcome focused evaluation

The Task Force is consulting with local authority commissioners, service providers and academics to ensure the tool is applicable and appropriate to the work they do.

If you would like to be involved in this process or would like further information about this project, contact: setaskforce@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk