

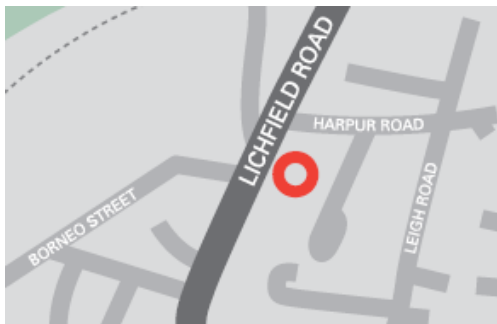
WORKSHOP

Friday, 9th April 2009

Wednesday, 15th April 2009

1.30p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

**The Beverley Hotel
58 Lichfield Road
Walsall
WS4 2DJ**



For more information or to confirm your participation, please contact Mercè Morell on 07984348394 or m.morell@actresearch.co.uk

actRESEARCH
Addiction Consultancy, Training & Research Ltd.

THINK FAMILY PATHFINDERS

WORKSHOP EVENT

**THE BEVERLEY HOTEL
WALSALL**

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What is 'Think Family'

'Think Family' extends the integration of children's service delivery set out in Every Child Matters to all of the services working with the same family, including adult services to provide integrated provision for whole families.

Aim: To improve outcomes for families caught in a cycle of low achievement, particularly those who are not effectively engaged and supported by existing services.

- **No wrong door:** Contact with any service offers an open door into a system of joined up support
- **Look at the whole family:** Services working with both adults and children take into account family circumstances and responsibilities
- **Build on family strengths:** Practitioners work in partnership with families recognising and promoting resilience and helping them to build their capabilities
- **Provide support tailored to need:** Tailored and family-centred packages of support that knit together relevant interventions are offered to all families at risk

Vision: Identify families at risk and to provide support at the earliest opportunity

What are 'families at risk'?

'Families at risk' is a shorthand term for families many of whose members experience, or are at risk of, multiple and complex problems such as worklessness, poor mental health or substance misuse which lead to poor outcomes for children, young people and adults within the families.

The most vulnerable families are those either not being helped by services, or only helped intermittently such as when a crisis occurs. Families at risk also include those whose situation may escalate without preventative support and the aim of the approach is to deal with whole families.

What is happening in Walsall

To date, the project has evolved essentially around the following areas:

1- Liaising with local partners and agencies to assess what works locally in the area of family assessment and intervention and to ensure that the TFP process builds on those successes and the expertise and knowledge that exists locally.

2- Development of a Pathfinder Model specifically to fit with Walsall services, as outlined below



3- To develop a model to test this approach and to ensure that it can fit around existing adult and child provision as a method of boosting inter-agency working and joined-up communication as part of service provision. Our work is a 12-week feasibility assessment to identify key strengths and barriers in Walsall and to test what model should be implemented.

What next?

- If the existing model works, we will then develop job descriptions to populate this approach
- Development of a framework for ongoing support and training needs to ensure that the TFP model is implemented across services in Walsall
- Work on the development of pathways and instruments will continue to ensure that the key information is gathered and utilised as appropriate

Workshop Event

The workshop will consist of a half-day workshop in which a range of professionals from local services in adult and child services will examine hypothetical and anonymised real cases to test what the current processes are in Walsall and what problems arise in engaging and managing complex family issues.

Focusing on a process to evaluate what the current process is in Walsall for managing complex cases (ie family cases that involve more than a single service provider), and to assess the resources involved and the adequacy of pathways between agencies

Primarily, this will help to identify key risks of the existing model and assess what Think Family Pathfinders (TFP) could add to the process in terms of service delivery and case coordination.

The workshops provide professionals – from delivery agencies and from management grades – to contribute to our developing understanding of what works in Walsall and how TFP can fit into this process.

We urgently need your input – this is a major initiative from DCSF and we want to ensure that all relevant parties are represented in planning its roll-out in Walsall

If you or any person in your team would like to take part in this exercise, please contact Mercè Morell on m.morell@actresearch.co.uk