

# **Edge of Care Interventions Report Quarter One 2020-21**

**Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission**

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**Leicester  
City Council**

# Approach to edge of care services



**Family Group Conferencing**  
used at any stage when risk of family network is identified as breaking down. Prioritises child protection.

**Safe Families**  
used at any stage with a focus on child in need and child protection

**Parenting Assessments & Two Year Pathway**  
Mainly at child protection stage with clear risk of care identified and used as an alternative to high cost residential parenting assessments and develop sustainability

**MST, MST CAN and FFT**  
clear risk of care or custody identified with FFT and MST CAN only taking cases where a decision has been made that they meet the threshold for removal into care

**Family Group Conferencing and Parenting Assessments**  
Used to support plans for permanence or exits from care

# Summary

- Impact of COVID-19 – 42% reduction on interventions concluded, over 50% reduction of referrals to FGC/Safe Families
- 37 children EOC concluded – 30 children (81%) remained at home, closed to social care and early help, exited from care
- 16 children who had an EOC intervention stepped down from proceedings

By end of Q1 (2020-21), cost avoidance can be evidenced:

- MST-FFT - £2.2m forecast
- Safe Families (Annual)
- FGC/Parenting Assessments – No financial evaluation but established models evidencing impact
- Parenting Assessments – Only 2 residential assessments commissioned, annual reduction of £600k maintained since model introduced
- LAC entrants report being developed
- Ethnicity now reported, 55% White British/ 45% BAME – further analysis to be completed



# MST, MST CAN and FFT

- 49 children/ 34 families
- Referral status: 21% Early Help, 20% Child in Need, 56% Child Protection, 3% LAC
- 20 cases closed in Q4

| Team    | Cases closed | Success rate   |       |        |
|---------|--------------|----------------|-------|--------|
|         |              | Remain at home | LAC   | Closed |
| MST     | 3 (31)       | 2 (11)         | 1 (0) | (20)   |
| MST CAN | 3 (12)       | 3 (11)         | (1)   |        |
| FFT     | 14 (11)      | 9 (7)          | 4 (3) | 1 (1)  |
| Total   | 20 (54)      | 14 (29)        | 5 (4) | 1 (21) |

- Adherence scores remain high 0.91 v 0.61 (MST) and 3/5 for FFT
- Significantly less closures from MST on par with average length of treatment 6 – 9 months



# Safe Families

Category 1 – need support but not at risk of accommodation, Category 2 is without SF support, on trajectory to coming into care - 57% of referrals were determined as Cat 2 - comparable

17 children referred (42% reduction from Q4)

51 children supported in Q1 - 35% for social care, 65% for Early Help – 79% are aged 0 - 11

14 Bed nights, 7 children/5 families over 7 instances of hosting (2 CP/ 2 CIN/ 1 PLO)

Engagement rate is 66%, better than comparable LA's at 50%

9 closures – continuing to receive support from SF volunteers in the community

16 host families/ 112 vols

73% of all children supported to date have maintained or de-escalated, 24% closed, 3% LAC

Using Troubled Families PBR to continue service till Mar 21

# Family Group Conference

- 12 families, 27 children (56% reduction from Q4)
- Referral status: 45% Early Help, 35% Child Protection, 20% LAC
- 7 FGC's held - 39 family members invited, 33 attended meetings
- 100% produced a family plan independently

| Cases closed<br>(previous<br>quarter) | Success rate      |            |       |        |                |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------|--------|----------------|
|                                       | Remain at<br>home | Remain LAC | LAC   | Closed | Exit from care |
| 13 (10)                               | 7 (3)             | 1(1)       | 1 (1) | 2 (4)  | 2* (1)         |

- 2 children placed with family (kinship) so still cost to the authority but better outcomes for children
- Signs of Safety scaling: average at point of referral was **4**, after 3 months moved up to **5.9**

# Parenting Assessments (PA)

- 37 requests for PA, 36 children (25 pre birth) St Andrews 0 due to CV-19
- Referral status: 75% Child Protection, 25% CIN

| PA completed |       | Success rate   |            |            |        |                |
|--------------|-------|----------------|------------|------------|--------|----------------|
|              |       | Remain at home | Remain LAC | Became LAC | Closed | Exit from care |
| Early Help   | 4 (7) | (5)            | (1)        | (1)        | 4      |                |
| St Andrews   | (11)  | (1)            | (6)        | (1)        |        | (3)            |

| Year    | No of residential PA | Bed nights | Cost | Comments  |
|---------|----------------------|------------|------|---|
| 2017-18 | 55                   | 3,261      | 1.2m | Avg assessment is 60 nights, £200 per day             |
| 2018-19 | 23                   | 1,116      | 470k | Developed in house PA model within existing resources |
| 2019-20 | 21                   | 675        | 450k | Some assessments higher cost due to CCTV etc          |
| 2020-21 | 2                    | 89         | 43k  |   |

# Case Studies

## FGC

Children came into care. Mum suffers from substance misuse, alcohol and drugs and had a breakdown, she was taken to hospital after being found in the street, suspected drug dealing from home. Plan made to support mum so children can return home. Since FGC, the children are living with a family friend under SGO.

## MST CAN

*'I feel that I have been supported very well by the professionals that have worked with me... I have worked really hard with my therapist and her team. We stay in contact at least two to three times a week and this involves them visiting me and the children as well as telephone calls. We talk about strategies to help me to remain drug free. I deeply regret the actions of my past'* (Parent)

## Parenting Assessment

*'With the knowledge from sessions weekly I felt better prepared to be a father. I thought this was something that would come natural but I can reflect and understand that I wouldn't of been so good if I hadn't of had all of the support. Being a parent has felt very different this time and no matter how much I didn't want to or like the idea of social care being involved, I have learnt so much and this has felt very different to the service I received years ago with my previous children'* (Parent)



# Key Recommendations

1. Further analysis to be completed on ethnicity of children supported, identifying any trends and actions.
2. Safe Families to increase pool of volunteers from asian communities.
3. FGC to compare families experience when using interpreters vs staff who speak different languages.
4. Explore opportunities to replace temporary funding for FGC (£105k) and Safe Families (100k) beyond April 21.
5. Explore opportunities to expand the Parenting Assessment model within existing resources.
5. St Andrews Contact Centre to undertake parenting assessments from Q3.

# Any questions?

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*If you can predict something, you can prevent it.....*



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