

Service: Children and Young People's Services
Title: Values and Principles - Children in Need
Manual: Children in Need
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INTRODUCTION

The underpinning values and principles for all work with children in need are consistent with the values and principles set out in the Children Act 1989 and related regulations and guidance; the rights of the individual children established in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989); the Children Act 2004 and 'Investing in Children'.

ABBREVIATIONS

LSCB Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board
ECMCD Every Child Matters in County Durham

PRINCIPLES

Service Provision is Child and Family Centred

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- Children and young people should be listened to and their wishes and feelings given consideration at all times.
- It is essential to work in partnership with the children and young people, their parents, other family members and carers.

Information is Provided to Facilitate Access to Services

- Information about the provision of services should be widely available to individuals, families, and agencies.
- Information should be provided in a variety of ways and formats to ensure it is available to all children and families who may benefit from service provision.
- The provision of information should encourage referrals and action, which will enable help to be provided as early as possible through the provision of preventive services.

Professionals and Agencies Work Effectively Together

- Effective inter-agency working, and a recognition of the corporate responsibility of the local authority and other agencies, is essential and should be promoted through the overall frameworks provided by the Children's Trust, the LSCB, and Investing in Children.
- Professional practice should be based on sound evidence and staff in all agencies should have appropriate skills and abilities which are recognised and understood by others.

Assessment and Planning Provides the Basis for all Service Provision

- The key to planning targeted support should be a needs led and holistic assessment.

- Part of the assessment may relate to the child's need for safety, and the ability of those with parental responsibility to protect the child from significant harm, and part should address how best to promote children's health and development in both the short and long term.
- Children and young people should have someone who can advocate on their behalf to request an assessment or service.

Service Provision is Flexible, Appropriate and Co-ordinated

- Service provision/planning will ensure that, whenever it is consistent with their needs, children can remain in mainstream services as close as possible to their families and communities.
- Services must be accessible.
- Services will positively attempt to meet needs and preferences with respect to race, religion, language, culture, gender and disability.

The Aim of Providing Services is to Ensure Positive Outcomes for Children

1. Any service provided will focus on securing positive outcomes for children.
2. Effective use of resources, both mainstream and more specialist, should be underpinned by an approach that focuses on clear standards, targets and outcomes.
3. The services provided should positively promote the well-being and safety of all children.
4. Good outcomes will be achieved by ensuring that assessment and planning is backed up by effective monitoring and reviewing.

The aim of the Children's Trust, as delivered by 'Every Child Matters in County Durham' is for children, young people and their families to achieve the 'Five Outcomes'.

These are:

- Be healthy.
- Be safe.
- Enjoy and achieve.
- Make a positive contribution.
- Have economic well being.

In addition:

All children, and young people involved with Safeguarding and Specialist Services will be:

- Listened to.
- A full part of decision making.
- Comfortable with the decision making process.
- Aware of the opportunities to be involved.
- Treated with the same respect, dignity and status as adults.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Children Act 1989

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

Human Rights Act 1998

Interagency Policy and Procedural Guidance for Sharing Information and Confidentiality 2001

Every Child Matters in County Durham www.everychildmattersincountydurham.org

Children Act 2004

The Common Assessment Framework in County Durham Operational Guidance for Practitioners.

This is a Controlled Document