

Early Identification, Assessment and Intervention.

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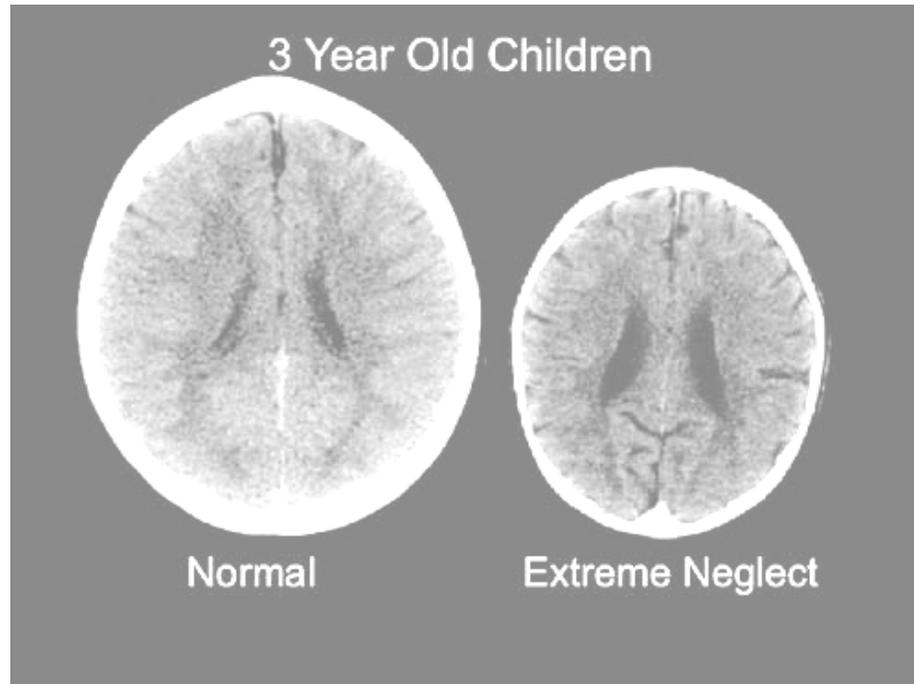
Early Intervention and Prevention in Barnet

- Investing in early intervention and prevention to reduce the number of children and families experiencing complex problems
- Protecting the most vulnerable people from avoidable harm or abuse underpins everything we do

Early Identification, Assessment and Intervention

Putting the Community First

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH



The effects of neglect begin early and remain throughout a child's life even into adulthood.

Widely accepted:

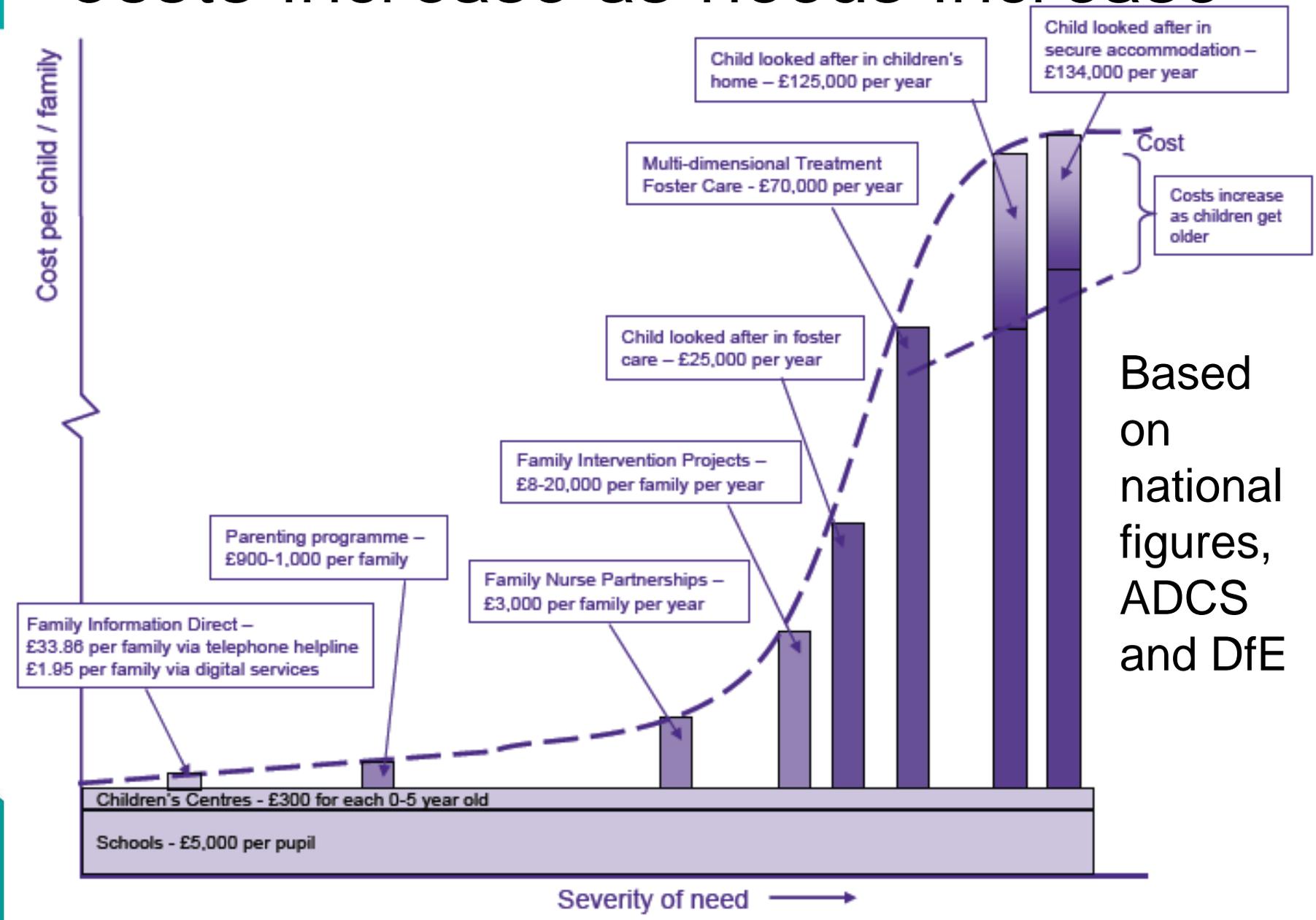
- Graham Allen review – early intervention
- Frank Field review – child poverty
- Munro review- importance of early identification and early help.

Implications for:

Society – early damage requires further support from social care, education, health, housing, police, and other services.

Individual – reduced life chances

Costs increase as needs increase



Early Intervention and Prevention services in Barnet

- Children's Centres
- Safer Families Domestic Violence project
- Family Focus Team
- Multi-agency support team - supporting Common Assessment Framework process
- Youth Support Services
- Supported early years child care packages

Troubled Families Division

- Recent Government initiative from DCLG
- Family Support practitioners
- In Barnet division consists of:

◆ **Family Focus Team**

◆ **Intensive Family Focus Team (FIP)**

What is a 'troubled family'?

- 120,000 troubled families nationally
- 705 troubled families identified in Barnet
- 3 criteria

◆ **Have an adult on out of work benefits**

◆ **Children not in school**

◆ **Involved with Crime and ASB**

- High cost to public purse

Family Focus model of work

- **A dedicated caseworker with low case-loads to work intensively with the whole family**
- **whole family assessment and support packages to address whole family needs**
- **Adopting a challenge and support model of intervention**
- **Not imposing time limits on the intervention**
- **Exit planning and identifying ongoing support**

Troubled Families Division

- Total team of 36 Family Support Practitioners
- Supervised by 6 Seniors in teams
- 12 Intensive Family Focus Practitioners- families needing support from 4 or more agencies
- 24 Family Focus practitioners-families needing support from 2 or more agencies

Referrals and the Common

Assessment Framework (CAF)

- **Referrals to the Family Focus team - through the completion of a CAF**
- **Referrals for Intensive Family Focus - through completion of IFF Referral form**
- **CAF assessment completed by IFF Practitioner with the family**

The CAF Process

- **A Pre-Assessment Checklist (to help identify when to undertake a CAF)**
- **The Common Assessment Form**
- **Referral tool to access more targeted support**
- **An action plan with built in review process**
- **The appointment of a Lead Professional**
- **Team Around the Child/multi-agency meetings**

Who is the CAF for?

CAF should be carried out when:

- There is concern about how well a child or young person is progressing
- Their needs are unclear, or broader than one service can address on its own
- A CAF would help identify the needs and provide a basis for getting other services involved.

Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST) to provide CAF support

- **CAF Duty Desk** (Mon-Fri, 9-5) to deal with all CAF queries (including informing practitioners whether a CAF already exists for a child). Also to log CAFs and triage CAFs as referrals)

Tel: 020 8359 4405

e-caf-gcsx@barnet.gcsx.gov.uk

e-caf@barnet.gov.uk * (if sending doc password protected rather than via secure email)

www.barnet.gov.uk

Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST)

The Team is made up of:

- 4x fte Multi-Agency Coordinators (MACs)
- 3 x CAF Social Workers and manager
- 3 x Safer Families Domestic Violence Workers

Role of Multi-Agency Groups (MAGs)

- **Multi-Agency forum**
- **'trouble-shoot' stuck CAFs/pre-CAF and get CAF back on track**
- **chaired by senior managers from Children's Service**
- **representatives from all key stake-holders at a managerial level (inc. CAMHS, and Primary Health)**

Safer Families DV Project



Safer Families line - 020 8359 7218

New local CAF Form since

Nov 2011

- Shorter and streamlined
- used as a referral as well as assessment tool
- parent/child indicators to chart distance travelled and show impact
- separate page for each child/family CAF

CAF used to refer to:

- Family Focus Team- since Nov 2011
- CAMHS Tier 3- since Feb 2012
- Early Years Vulnerable C/Ctre places- since April 2012
- Can also support referrals to other services

Reminder - CAFs used as referral tool

- Must provide enough relevant information to assist a team to allocate and prioritise the case
- be able to help the new Team 'hit the ground running' with the case
- be of good quality- the CAF is a 'live' document to support a family.

Increase in numbers of CAFs since 2008

