



Children's Centres - strengthening families

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Key documents

- New EYFS consultation closes 30th September 2011 - revisedeyfs@education.gsi.gov.uk
- Children Centre Core Purpose ended 31st August
- Families in the Foundation Years and Supporting Families in the Foundation Years
[www.education.gov.uk/familiesin the foundation years](http://www.education.gov.uk/familiesin%20the%20foundation%20years)
- 4Children's website to support all who work in the foundation years - www.foundationyears.org.uk
- Evidence base support documents
- Health Visitor Implementation Plan



Early days lasting impact

- Growing evidence on impact of early weeks, months and years on children's cognitive, social, emotional, social and intellectual development - Marmot Review - cc's key role to play in supporting health
- Importance of parent/child bond in first months and years critical - Bowlby, Rutter - mothers' mental health
- Positive attachments key for resilience & connectedness - Wave Trust
- Prevention toxic stress - alters brain architecture - generational impact OECD 2007 Understanding the Brain
- Positive authoritative parenting leads to a strong, happy childhood preparing for a confident, resilient adult able to learn and contribute



What we know and must do

- Better focus and knowledge child development and supporting families
- Strengthening support for parents earlier and ongoing
- Understanding of the risk and support factors
- Understanding on how to support family relationships and strengthen attachments
- Effective and evidence based early intervention activities- Allan 0-3 and onwards
- Continue to improve quality of the workforce
- New stronger relationships

Tools



- Recent reviews - Allan, Marmot, Tickell, Munroe, Field, HVIMP
- Foundation Years Vision- Government Commitment
- Reflection post summer riots on causes and solutions
- Passion and commitment in the broad foundation years field - universal to targeted
- Universal to identify vulnerability earlier - strengthen -health, welfare, attainment



Challenges

- Budget reductions - more for less
- Coping and responding to change
- Leading in uncertain times - embracing the change advocating, innovating and continuing to improve
- Midwives, HV's, speech and language integrate and expert lead (HCP;HVIP)
- Really working together as professionals - each other and parents
- Sustainability



Strengths based approach

- Moving from deficit to strengths based approaches - New York, Wales, Croyden, Nottingham
- Maximising all interactions to identify and assess needs and support - pregnancy onwards
- Improved interaction and delivery across the foundation years - better grip on the first two years - all evidence points to the significant importance - Feinstein(22months impact)
- Working with families to strengthen their ability to support their children - attachments and relationships
- Better grip on risk factors, and target support earlier
- Building family and community capacity

Earlier intervention

- Better understanding on what works and how to do
- Challenge, get a grip and support
- Communication and action on
- Families at the core in their community
- Remove professional barriers
- Stronger, more confident professionals

Core Purpose



- Connect Community health needs assessment with children's centres - HV's working as an integrated part of children's centres - experts in community, individual and family health needs assessments key to tackling inequalities and enabling cc's to target and provide evidence based approaches
- Build stronger foundation years teams with midwives, HV's, health and social care built in - relationships and connections need to be stronger
- Examine programmes to ensure best models for strengthening relationships- parent/child; family/professionals; services/community;professionals/professionals