

Cornerstone

**Breaking the Cycle Through
Family Intervention and
Integrated Delivery**

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Many Partners, One Direction

“Intensive family-based interventions are essential if deepest-rooted ASB problems are not simply to be recycled from area to area”

House of Commons Select
Committee 2005

Cornerstone Family Intervention Service

- ▶ The Family Intervention Service (Cornerstone) works intensively with complex families with multiple issues and entrenched behaviour such as **anti-social behaviour**, **substance misuse** and **safeguarding concerns**
- ▶ The service targets families who have traditionally failed to engage with mainstream services and provides a model of intensive engagement based on a three-pronged approach of **intervention**, **rehabilitation** and **enforcement**.
- ▶ Recognised by DfE (then DCSF) as 'cutting edge' model
- ▶ One of only 4 FIPs nationally to be invited to meeting with P.M. and key Ministers to discuss wider promotion



Some Facts & Figures

- ▶ Cornerstone now **supporting 101 families**
- ▶ 90 of the 101 families live in social housing
- ▶ **15 families successfully completed** the programme, are maintaining sustainable lifestyles and have greatly improved their life chances
- ▶ Only **9 unplanned departures** from the service to date – disengaged or repeated breaches of support contract
- ▶ Average length of support for successful completions – **8 months**
- ▶ 7 families housed using **Family Intervention Tenancies** of which 3 now converted to assured tenancies and no failures to date



Case Study - Then

- ▶ Family headed by **alcoholic** mum in late 40s who started drinking at the age of 12,
 - ▶ 10 year old boy who was on bail for a **serious crime**,
 - ▶ 12 year old boy who was **living away from home** with his dad,
 - ▶ 14 year old girl who **refused to go to school**
 - ▶ 2 older siblings, 18 & 19, still living at home
- ▶ **High levels of ASB** caused by all family members with calls to police/complaints to landlord from neighbours almost daily
- ▶ Children all subject to **Child Protection Plans**
- ▶ Taken on by Cornerstone **May '08**



Case Study – Now

- ▶ Mum has been through **detox** and has managed to stay dry apart from a couple of blips which she recovered from
- ▶ Police call outs and neighbour complaints are now down to **nil**
- ▶ Mum has **acknowledged her failings** and is learning how to parent her children
- ▶ The 10 year old boy was not charged, has been given a final warning and is currently working with YOT to **address and change his behaviour**
- ▶ The 11 year old boy is now back living with mum and his siblings gradually settling back into **family life**
- ▶ The 14 year old girl has now been given a place at **Step Up** which is alternative learning for hard to reach young people



Case study- Now

- ▶ **Enforcement action** no longer needed – family no longer at risk of eviction (and NC avoids associated costs up to £10K!)
- ▶ Family moved to underpin the **new start**
- ▶ Total agency **savings in excess of £100K p.a.** (net of 7K cost of Cornerstone input)
- ▶ Children are no longer subject to **Child Protection Plans**
- ▶ Cornerstone input **successfully withdrawn**



The Learning

- The FIP model – ‘tough love’ intervention v support - **works!**
- Coordinating services using **one support plan** and **one lead professional/keyworker** secures engagement when thought impossible
- Cornerstone provides **a template** for better integration of services to tackle multiple deprivation at the neighbourhood level

BUT..... we could do more if

- More flexible** use of resources for **targeted groups**
- Sharing/pooling** of resources
- More flexible responses across partner agencies
- Better **information sharing** – no hiding behind Data Protection
- We’re all braver, less risk averse and come out of our agency boxes: complex and deep seated issues can be tackled by radical thinking and **removing barriers to properly integrated service delivery where it counts.**



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Daughter of a Cornerstone service user who was using heroin and fleeing domestic violence

My Cornerstone worker just helps me get my emotions out. She is a wonderwoman who got us away from my mum's boyfriend and into a refuge.

I have now got a new home and school and I have made loads of new friends.

This is because of wonderwoman J, she is fab, she has changed me, my sister and mainly my mum, she has spread the pixie dust on our family.”



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