

Think Family: Update



Welcome!

At the council, we've just held our annual conference for adult social care managers. I spoke about the council's city-wide strategy for thinking family. This covers all the services the council and its partners deliver and means that all our staff, not just those in social care, will now be considering not only the needs of individuals but of those close to them.

There is little doubt that this will be a profound change in thinking for many colleagues, but less so in Liverpool where we realised that this was the way forward in parental mental health some years ago.

One of the original drivers of this change was Barnardo's North West, and I am delighted that director Mark Lee is the first of our partners to contribute to *Think Family: Update*.

Also, I'd like to thank Joe Blott, the council's assistant executive director for adult social care and learning services, who has chaired our steering group. He's leaving to become an executive director at Warrington Borough Council where I'm sure he'll take the "think family" message.

Stuart Smith
Executive director
Children, families and adults
Liverpool City Council



Welcome! **Continued**

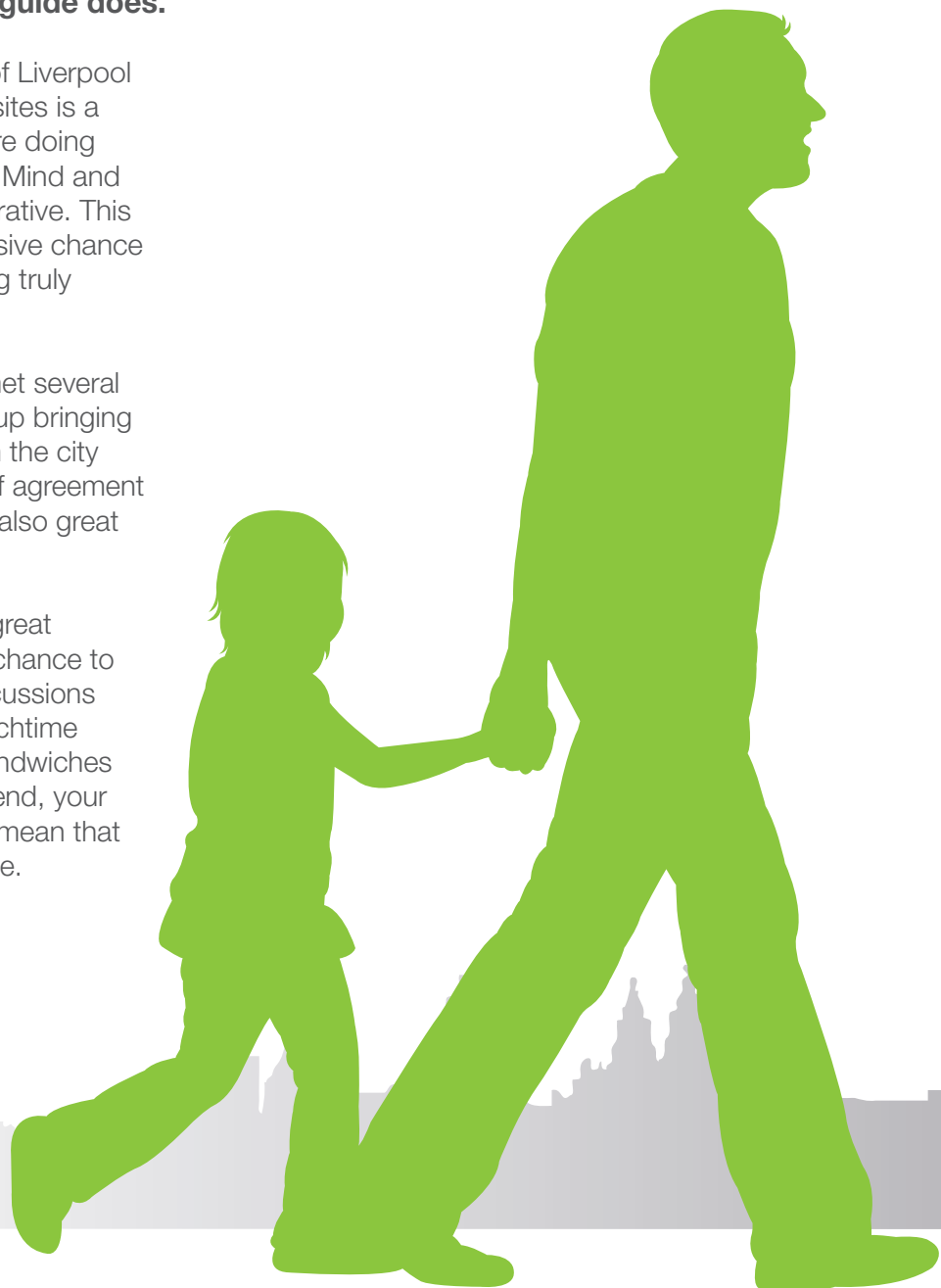
It isn't often that we're given an opportunity to make such a positive impact on the lives of whole families. Although legislation and policy on how we engage with children and adults is constantly updated and developed it is rare for it to encompass the needs of everyone in the family as a matter of course. This is what SCIE's latest guide does.

As you know, SCIE's choice of Liverpool as one of its implementation sites is a direct result of the work we are doing around Keeping the Family in Mind and the Liverpool FAMILY Collaborative. This official endorsement is a massive chance for us all to achieve something truly pioneering in the city.

The steering group has now met several times and I hear that for a group bringing together the biggest players in the city there is a significant amount of agreement about where we're going and also great enthusiasm for the guide.

With this in mind, it gives me great pleasure to now give you the chance to become involved with the discussions as we launch our series of lunchtime learning events – and, yes, sandwiches are provided! Please try to attend, your passion and commitment will mean that we can really make a difference.

Mark Lee
Director
Barnardo's North West



Your chance to find out more...

Liverpool City Council's workforce development unit has been running a programme of lunchtime learning sessions over the last two years. The format has proved very popular, with colleagues getting together over an informal lunch to hear about other teams' work or latest developments.

We've decided to use this format for our first round of staff engagement events, **Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family: Implementing the SCIE Guide.**

You'll notice that each of the partner organisations is hosting an event, but **you don't have to attend the event hosted by**

your employer, just sign up for the event that is most convenient to you.

If you would like to attend an event please let us know as soon as possible as we need to make sure we have enough sandwiches!

Please send confirmation details (name, organisation, job title, and which session) to WorkforceDevelopment@liverpool.gov.uk or call **233 4644**.

And don't forget! We'll be running a larger engagement event for everyone in the new year! Watch this space for further details...

Host	Venue	Date and time	
Alder Hey Hospital	Seminar room 4, Education Centre, Alder Hey Hospital, Eaton Road, West Derby, L12 2AP	1 December 2009 12.00 - 1.30pm	
Liverpool City Council	Collingwood room, Millennium House, Victoria Street, Liverpool, L1 6JQ	9 December 2009 12.30 - 1.30pm	FULL
Mersey Care NHS Trust	Conference room, Switch House, Switch House Business Park, Northern Perimeter Road, Bootle, L30 7PT	13 January 2010 12.30 - 1.30pm	
Liverpool PCT	Picton Neighbourhood Health and Children's Centre, 137 Earle Road, L7 6HD	14 January 2010 12.30 - 1.30pm	
Voluntary sector	PSS Leeson Centre, Forward Learning Centre, Parklands, Speke, L24 0TJ	1 February 2010 12.00 - 2.00pm	FULL

What's been happening?

As well as getting out and meeting people (see page six) the steering group's main achievement since our last bulletin has been the development of the work plan.

The plan has been developed from a scoping exercise where all partners looked at what the guide is asking us to do and to what extent we have the right systems and people in place to do it.

We now know what we need to do and this is the work plan. One of the plan's ultimate aims will be to develop a Think Family Strategy containing agreed principles for the whole city. When the work plan is fully signed off by the group it will be presented to committees and also made public on the group's forthcoming web pages.

In the meantime, progress is already being made on the plan and the group will be working on an innovative project with Liverpool's children's centres.

The Children's Centre Project will see four family support workers based in each community mental health team who will help support people who have mental health difficulties and are parents of children aged from zero to five years. The group felt that this would provide an excellent opportunity to look at joint working across adult and children's systems.

We don't want the Children's Centre Project to be the only focus of our attention though. We know that there are plenty of great ideas all across the city which show that thinking family is already a part of how we engage with parents and children. To help us all improve we need to hear about what you're doing, from big changes to individual one-off success.

If you've got something to share please contact Louise Wardale, **708 7323** or louise.wardale@barnardos.org.uk and we will feature it in future newsletters.



How else will I be involved?

One of the most important items on the work plan is supporting the development of our workforce. This is an integral part of the SCIE guidance and over the coming months we will be working on how we can best align training with the guide.

We have also set up a workforce development subgroup, headed by Liverpool City Council's new workforce development manager for children, families and adults Wendy Moss to develop multi-agency joint working and ensure that thinking family is embedded across the city.

Next July there will also be e-learning resources available on the SCIE website, training will be free to use and will contain modules on screening and assessment as well as commissioning.

In the meantime, SCIE has defined what a service that is successful at thinking family looks like, please visit:

www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide30/successfulservice.asp



Thinking Family out and about

Work on the guide is not just going on in Liverpool, similar pilot programmes are taking place in five other areas, Birmingham, Lewisham, Northern Ireland, North Somerset and Southwark, so we are sharing what we are learning with other sites, and further afield, as much as we can. Representatives from all the sites met in London in September and the next get-together will be held in Liverpool in January.

We were asked to contribute to SCIE's annual review, *Improving care in challenging times*. In the review Louise Wardale, Barnardo's Action with Young Carers and Keeping the Family in Mind, said:

"We sat on SCIE's advisory group to support the development of its parental mental health guide, ensuring that families who had experience of parental mental health issues, in particular young people, had a strong input. All of the young people involved felt it was very important to have their experiences highlighted."

"As one young woman, Louisa said,

'The guide really began with listening to our experiences. Now we know more people will understand our lives and how services can and should work better. If staff and workers don't really understand how we feel then things just won't change, so I see that this guide is really sticking up for our families to help us.'

"Advisory group participant Cait Cahill said,

'I hope it will help to change things. I think lots of staff do want to work together, but then they say things like "it's not really my job". To me it needs those people at the top to say we are going to really work on the things in the guide because it will help families'."





Filming in the family room

SCIE has also launched its web-based Social Care TV and in the new year one of Merseyside's best practice examples is being showcased, Mersey Care NHS Trust's innovative family rooms.

The family rooms provide a safe and comfortable environment for children to visit parents who are mental health in-patients and they were set up after working with parents, young carers and partners such as Barnardo's. The first room was set up eight years ago and there are now more than a dozen rooms across all specialist mental health services.

The film features young carer Cait (mentioned above) and Mersey Care's Liverpool service director and steering group member Carol Bernard at the Broadoak unit. Cait is part of Barnardo's Action with Young Carers project whose members evaluate all the family rooms once

they are set up and then award the jelly baby logo once it has met their approval.

We've also been featured in the Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services (LCVS) magazine and you might have heard Louise Wardale and Cait on BBC Radio Merseyside for World Mental Health Day too.

Louise Wardale, Clare Mahoney, from Liverpool PCT, and two young people from the city presented at the SCIE National Children and Adult Services Conference. Louise and Jane Weller, Liverpool City Council, also presented at a "think family" development day organised by Halton's Safeguarding Children Board.

Louise will also present with Amanda Edwards, SCIE's deputy chief executive, at the Early Intervention for Families at Risk conference in London later this month.



Key contacts

This is our second newsletter, if you would like a copy of the first issue, please contact **Louise Powney**, internal communication officer at Liverpool City Council, **0151 233 8128**. Louise is the key communication contact for the implementation group.
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Newsletters and other information will be distributed around partner organisations by:

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Liverpool PCT - Gail Campbell
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Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust - Rebecca Poole
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Liverpool Mental Health Consortium - Andy Kerr
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Partner Organisations



social care
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