



BELIEVE IN CHILDREN
CREDWCH MEWN PLANT

Families Matter



Families Matter

- An Early Evaluated Parental Intervention Pilot
- Funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and Barnardo's Cymru in response to "Hidden Harm – *The report of an inquiry by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs*"



Six Key Messages from Hidden Harm

The report of an inquiry by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

- Estimated between 250,00 and 350,000 children of problem drug users in the UK about one for every problem drug user
- Parental problem drug use can and does cause serious harm to children at every age from conception to adulthood



Six Key Messages from Hidden Harm

- Reducing the harm from parental problem drug use should become the main objective of policy and practice
- Effective treatment of the parent can have major benefits for the child



Six Key Messages from Hidden Harm

- By working together, services can take many practical steps to protect and improve the health and well being of affected children
- The number of affected children is only likely to decrease when the number of problem drug users decreases



Parental Substance Misuse

Why Barnardo's?

- Over 100 years service credibility and recognition as the leading children's charity in the UK
- A track record in delivery of evaluated Parenting programmes
- Targeted interventions with young people and with parents



Issues Associated With Parental Substance Misuse

- Increased risk of child neglect and abuse
- Compromised parenting capacity
- Poor outcomes for child development and behaviour
- Increased risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system
- Increased risk of developing substance misuse problems themselves
- Infant attachment problems and high levels of parent-child separation



Families Matter Aims

The aims of the project are to prevent family breakdown and facilitate better outcomes for children/young people by supporting parents in partnership with other agencies to reduce their substance misuse, develop positive parenting skills and a safer nurturing environment for their children.



Aims cont'd

Simultaneously supporting both parents and their children to develop positive relationships, in order to prevent this particularly vulnerable group of children/young people from being taken into the care of the Local Authority and ultimately becoming the next generation of substance misusing parents.



Interventions Used

- Confidential Service
- Parenting Work
- Motivational Interviewing
- Family Therapy
- Family Group Conferencing
- Cognitive Behavioural Therapies
- Group Support
- Individual Support
- Advice and Information



Context

- 'Break the cycle'
- Cumulative factors and increased risk
- Substance misuse in a family context
- Substance misuse is potentially a high factor in LAC system numbers



Flintshire Young Carers Project

- Established in the county for 10 years
- 1 fulltime project worker funded by SMAT
- Currently working with 32 children/young people affected by parental substance misuse
- Families Matter refers into project
- In future 1 qualified project worker funded by BL
- Group work and activities
- 1 to1 work
- Peer support



Flintshire Families Matter Outcomes to Date

In the First 12 months of the Project

- Development of a multi-agency steering group
- Interim multi-agency operational group
- Heightened awareness of Hidden Harm in the county
- 2 children returned home from care of LA
- 3 children removed from Child Protection Register
- 6 children closed to SSD as children in need
- Significant number prevented from being referred to SSD



If children and young people have a voice
If we can hear that voice



Children will be better protected
CREDWCH MEWN PLANT BELIEVE IN CHILDREN



Barnardo's
Cymru