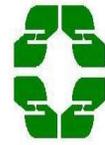




ISLINGTON



Camden

**Joint supervision protocol between
Camden Family Services and Social Work
Islington Targeted and Specialist
Children and Families Services
and
Mental Health Services**

Policy title

Joint supervision protocol between Camden Family Services and Social Work/ Islington Targeted and Specialist Children and Families Services and Mental Health Services

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Policy category	Clinical
Relevant to	All clinical staff working with Children and their parents/carers in the London Borough of Camden and London Borough of Islington and mental health services
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Policy lead	Patrica Denney, Principal Officer- Camden Laura Eden, Service Manager, Safeguarding and QA-Islington Lorraine Wiener, Safeguarding Manager C&I Trust
Approved by (Group):	Safeguarding Group - Camden 2nd November 2012 Targeted and Specialist Management Group- Islington June 2013
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1. Introduction

A significant proportion of cases referred to Family Services and Social Work (FSSW)/ Targeted and Specialist Children and Families Service (TSCFS) involve issues around

parental mental health, and at least a third of service users seen by Camden and Islington's mental health services will be parents.

This joint supervision protocol has been developed to enhance professional practice when workers / practitioners are working with children and their parents and families. All workers have a responsibility to work together sharing relevant information to meet the needs of children and their parents/carers.

2. Aims and objectives

The Trust and the Boroughs of Camden and Islington are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All workers have a duty to be alert to potential vulnerabilities in children and adults, and to know what to do if they have concerns. All workers are expected to be aware of and implement the Trust and Borough's safeguarding policies and procedures.

All workers / staff working with children and their parents/carers have a responsibility to ensure the best outcomes by providing excellent practice, which includes participating in joint supervision with other professionals involved with the family.

3. Scope of the protocol

This protocol sets out arrangements for joint supervision for frontline mental health workers and children's social workers for all cases where FSSW/ TSCFS and mental health services are both working with the family.

4. Definition of joint working

Joint working is defined as different professional groups, different agencies or different sectors working together. In practice joint working involves two or more professionals, normally from different agencies, participating in joint case work, conferences, professional meetings, communicating and developing a working relationship, sharing information, conducting joint home visits and developing a joint care plan together.

5. Joint supervision

Joint supervision should offer both services an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the joint delivery of services and how this is leading to improvements in the lives of the children and their parents and families.

It aims to enhance joint working by providing a forum for case discussion that facilitates risk assessment, information sharing, co-ordinated planning leading to better service delivery and therefore better outcomes for children and their parents.

It is also hoped that joint supervision will lead to a better understanding between the partner agencies with regard to each agency's role and improve joint working relationships, as well as providing learning opportunities for each agency.

Camden social workers, mental health workers and their managers should be familiar with the FSSW/mental health services joint working protocol.

Islington social workers, mental health workers and their managers should be familiar with the TSCFS/ mental health service “Think Family” joint working protocol.

6. Procedures

- Joint supervision should take place at a minimum of every 6 months, but in cases where there is a high level of risk the managers may agree to increase this to an appropriate frequency for managing the case.
- All workers / practitioners working with children and their parents/carers are responsible for identifying the relevant cases and contacting their counterpart in the partner agency to arrange joint supervision sessions.
- Joint supervision **must** be attended by **both supervisors** of the services and allocated social worker and mental health worker of both FSSW/TSCSF and mental health services. Joint supervision is not merely a management tool, but is there to support practice and improve outcomes for families.
- The discussion should cover the points listed below and should be recorded on the joint supervision record shown at appendix 1.
- The record of the supervision should be completed by a manager and should be uploaded onto the child and parent’s Framework in record/ ICS record. A case note should be written evidencing that joint supervision has taken place. Evidence of supervision should also be included on the Trust’s electronic patient record system (RiO).
- In the event that either service plans to withdraw a service or close a case, this should be discussed in advance at a joint supervision meeting and should consider making referrals to a “step-down” agency such as the Family Service/ Families First or other services who can continue to support the family.

7. Agenda for joint supervision

The agenda should include the following:

- Background information from each service on which family member the service is involved with and the focus of the work.
- Information on risks, risk assessment and any other important information.
- Any changes or significant events/incidents in the family since the last supervision meeting.
- Details of each service plan, i.e.: CIN/CP/CLA or CPA/CTO, including any contingency plan should the situation deteriorate.
- Details of any joint visits or contact with the family and feedback from the family on how things are progressing.
- Any difficulties in working with the family or joint working issues.

- What is working well and what strengths there are within the family.
- Any equality or diversity issues affecting work with the family.
- Any identified learning opportunities for the allocated social workers and mental health workers i.e.: research or other information to be shared.
- Any resource issues, planned closure and/or involvement of other agencies such as CAMHS, teachers, religious leaders and probation services.

8. Dissemination and implementation arrangements

This protocol will be distributed to all managers working in the Borough of Camden FSSW, the Borough of Islington TSCFS and mental health services who will disseminate to all staff. This document will be posted on the Trust and Borough of Camden and Islington's intranets.

9. Monitoring and audit arrangements

Elements to be monitored	Lead	How trust will monitor compliance	Frequency	Reporting arrangements	Acting on recommendations and Lead(s)	Change in practice and lessons to be shared
Joint staff supervision	Jennifer Brown Laura Eden	Audit	6 monthly	Safeguarding Group – Camden QA Subgroup- Islington	Required actions will be identified and completed in a specified timeframe	Required changes to practice will be identified and actioned within a specific time frame. A lead member of the team will be identified to take each change forward where appropriate. Lessons will be shared with all the relevant stakeholders

10. Review of the protocol

This protocol will be reviewed in December 2014.

Appendix 1

Record of joint FSSW/ TSCFS and Mental Health Services supervision

Name of family: Name of FSSW/TSCFS social worker: Name of FSSW/TSCFS supervisor:
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Name of MHS worker:
Name of MHS supervisor:
Date of supervision:

Details of any incidents or changes to the family's circumstances since the last meeting:

Details of joint work with the family, including joint visits or assessments:

Current situation, including risk assessment information:

Assessment of family strengths:

Details of plans/interventions of both services:

Actions: (ensure they are SMART)