



Putting CCA into Practice

Experiences from Kildare
West Wicklow/Dublin South
West

Aim of Presentation

- To outline KWW/DSW involvement in the CCA Project over the past 9 months;
- To outline key aspects of the planning phase;
- To outline key aims & objectives for the Area with regard to our involvement & desired outcomes;
- To outline key challenges and learning for the Area in using this approach.

Purpose of CCA Project

- To co-ordinate the integration of alternative solutions within the community & to focus on improving processes & outcomes for children on the edge of care or currently in alternative care, and to support them within their family/community;
- Includes children/young people who have had multiple placement breakdown/ risk of placement breakdown & where alternative localised solutions are possible

Why involvement in CCA Project is beneficial to KWW/DSW

- Continued reliance on private care provision;
- Increase in complexity of presenting needs;
- Continued lack of suitable placements available;
- Crisis led dimension of decision making;
- Need for timely & outcome focused responses;
- Need for systematic & intensive interventions & a focus on 'whole family' approaches;
- Need to utilise/'tap into' skills & knowledge within staff teams

VFM Benefits of CCA

- Targeted use of resources in evidence based/informed solutions;
- In 2016 in KWW/DSW expenditure on private residential and private foster care placements was 32%. This compared with 24% of total expenditure for staffing;
- The total estimated savings from our involvement with CCA is approx €1.8m based on the sample of young people selected



CCA Area Governance Group

Chair: Interim Area Manager

Core members: PSW's for CIC/Fostering,
CPW, CPC Chair;
Senior Manager PPFS;
Business Manager;
Regional Finance
Manager;
Regional HR Manager;
Rep from Regional
Residential Services TBC

Outline of process since commencement

- **March** Workshop re planning for CCA;
- **April** CCA showcase event;
- **May** Project planning meeting.
Assistance with Commissioning Plan/identification of key beneficiaries ;
- **June** Additional Support Session;
- **July/August** Development of project plan & negotiations on-going with funded agencies;
- **Sept** Presentation & acceptance of Plan by COO.

Starting Point - Key Questions to Address

- What kinds of evidence-based/informed solutions will meet the needs of young people and their families in the Area?
- What resources are already available & to what extent are they meeting demand/safely preventing the need for care?
- What other resources may be required?

Profile of Young People Included

- 4 females & 3 males ranging from 10 to 17 years. The majority (5) in the 14 – 16 year old category;
- 2 young people currently in private res care;
- 1 in statutory residential care;
- 4 young people at home;
- All young people had previous care histories & presented as extremely vulnerable & on the edge of being received back into care

Overall Cohort of Young People

- In addition to the 7 young people & families identified our proposal incorporates some flexibility & allows for additional supports to be provided to teams in the form of mediation and therapeutic/counselling supports for families;
- Overall cohort to benefit from the project will be approx 30 young people over the course of the year

Key elements of the plans designed for the young people:

- **Individualised:** Addressing specific identified needs;
- **Localised:** to each young persons family & community context;
- **Cost Effective:** Particularly when compared with other care options;
- **Preventative:** to ensure that 'last resort' options are used only when only options have been fully exhausted

(Ref: National Practice Tool 1: Creative Community Alternatives)

Additional supports provided through CCA Project in KWW/DSW

- Intensive Home Support provided by Extern;
- Mediation Service provided by Focus Ireland;
- Functional Family Therapy through Families First;
- Providing capacity to tap into staff knowledge/expertise that currently exists.

Towards Implementation

- Approval of CCA Project Plan mid Sept;
- Currently one young person from cohort actively engaged;
- Programmes for 2 other young people to commence imminently;
- Other smaller packages for young people outside of the original identified cohort have also been funded.

Key Observations

- Length of time from initiation to delivery; the identification of young people to be involved began in March/April 2017 & their needs & profile constantly changed over the course of the last few months when the planning phase was underway;
- Benefits of a more intense & strongly supported planning phase with key timeframes & deliverables;

Key observations

- Need to have a clear date of commencement for services when negotiating with agencies during the planning phase;
- Delays in implementation can occur on approval of budget if the identified services don't yet have the required resources in place without recruiting etc

Key observations

- The model challenges current business supports (finance & HR) & there is a need for flexibility in approaches while also adhering to standards/regulations;
- The identification of position numbers/ additional Tusla staff to be employed would be extremely beneficial & means that we would have the flexibility to backfill staff with certain knowledge/skills sets while they are released on a temporary basis



Key observations

- Move away from crisis-led decision making
- Helps to build stronger inter-agency integrated working practices

Key Observations

- Supports investment in the capacity of local services that are being delivered & helps to strengthen expertise and resilience within the Area and local organisations.
- Helps to create momentum - Ideas & discussions are already taking place within the Area with regard to strengthening and expanding the nature of supports that could be provided

Key observations

- Need for CCA Co-ordinator to be in place to help to drive the project & to provide direction;
- First phase of funding used to 'bed down' key services . However additional/ follow on funding required to ensure development of approach.



Where to from here?



THANK YOU