

Supplemental - Parenting

The services in Priority B:

- Barnardos Family Intervention Service
- Multi-Systemic Therapy Service
- The Roberts Centre Family Intervention Service
- Families Moving Forward

All operate on the basis of a focus on the parents & carers skills to empower them to be able to sustain the change in the family. The eligibility criteria will see a mix of issues within the family household and some will be triggered by the behaviour of the adults and the children. The initial engagement work from the service will seek to understand the whole issues and create a plan which coordinates the work with the family.

Issues related to the education of the children e.g. absenteeism is a good example where the service will work with the parents and carers to leave them in a position where they sustain the change. The initial work may focus on correcting the immediate issue by providing practical hands on support to get the children into school, getting uniforms etc. but will move to working with the parents for them to take responsibility for the changes. Often we see the impact of poor routines at bedtimes for children leading to poor morning routines to get the children up, fed and dressed in time for school. Supporting the parents to establish normal routines is often a key area of focus and has a positive impact on the attendance of children at school on time.

The case study attached is an example of the work of the Barnardos service but isn't untypical of the type of issues the team will be dealing with.

Our providers also have a high level of skills and experience in specific parenting practice and programmes like for example Triple P and Incredible Years. The supervision and case management embeds the principles above and will retain the focus of the work on sustainable change.

Further Information

We have a dedicated web page which provides further information about all our services, performance information and newsletters. The service information will provide more detail on the support the service provides.

Our dedicated web page: <http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/28288.html>

Full Address : Portsmouth City Council Website | [Home](#) | [Living](#) | [Health and social care](#) | [Support for children and families](#) | Positive Family Steps and Priority

Case Study

Family Worker Case Study - Education

1. Family Composition

Mum

Dad to child C and D, Child A – Aged 7, Child B – Aged 6 , Child C – Aged 4 , Child D – Aged Two

3. Situation at start of intervention

Mum was living temporarily with her mother in two bedroom accommodation, with her four children due to leaving the family home as her and the children's father had separated. Concerns were raised from the health visitor and the school regarding the children coming into school with bruising regularly and also having poor attendance and regularly being late for school. There were also concerns raised regarding mums mental health after the birth of her youngest child and her substance misuse.

After living with her mother for three months, mum and the children were moved into permanent accommodation in an area in Portsmouth. FIP supported the family to get funds from the community care grant to obtain goods for the family home.

As mum had not lived on her own with the children, she found that she was unable to cope with all four children on her own and started to become very anxious and depressed. The children started to be late for school more regularly and their attendance was below 75%, due to the lates and absences. Regular multi agency meetings were held to ensure that mum was liaising with the school and to ensure that the school had up to date information regarding mum, as she regularly changed her telephone number.

Dad was helpful with looking after the children and on discussion with both of the families, it was decided that Dad would take custody of the two youngest children. Residency was granted to dad in and he was placed in temporary accommodation with the girls, and was offered permanent accommodation later in the year. This was a stressful time for dad as he had no white goods to take

with him to his new home. FIP supported Dad to apply for funding from the local welfare assistance scheme.

FIP also supported both mum and dad when benefits changed over and provided both with food bank vouchers when the benefits for the children were stopped due to change of circumstances..

4. Types of intervention

Since working with the family, we have worked towards looking at bedtimes for the children that are appropriate, routines within the family home to make life more organised and for the children to feel more settled. I have supported both families when dad applied for the residency order for the two children to ensure that the process was as smooth as possible for both families and the children felt secure about where they would be living.

The children were also not being taken to their health appointments by mum, such as the referrals made to speech and language appointments and dentist appointments. Through supporting mum to purchase a diary and write these appointments down with her, mum has taken the children to these appointments, which has ensured the children's health needs are being met.

Mum is now on the waiting list for talking changes as she has decided that she would like to address her mental health problems and the children are attending school regularly and the school are extremely pleased with their progress. There have been no concerns raised regarding the supervision of the children and no concerns from the school regarding bruising.

Both mum and dad have expressed their wishes to do something more with their lives and dad is looking for work to fit around the children, whilst mum would like to volunteer so that she feels she is 'doing something with her life'.

5. A) Statement of Outcomes.

Both families are now living in permanent accommodation, which is a secure tenancy resulting in the children not having to move again and providing them with stability. Both parents have agreed weekly contact times to see the children, which was initially a problem but is now settled and working well for the family.

The childrens school attendance is now dramatically improving and they are on school for time regularly, which mum has said that this is down to getting the children in more of a routine the night before and ensuring that she has the childrens school uniform ready. Mum has also expressed that she would like to have support from play development so that she can have more creative ideas with regards to the children and what she can do with them through play. She has also said how she would like to start taking photos of the children to put around the family home, to make it a nicer place for the children and so that they feel more happier within the family home. This is something that mum has not previously done in the past.

Dad is settled in well in his accommodation and has settled the children in well by decorating their rooms and making it a comfortable place for the children to live. Dad has expressed that he would like to attend dads groups within the city so that he can get out and feel supported by other dads who are in the same situation as himself.

Mum and dad are both looking to go back to work now that they feel their home lives are more settled and would like support with finding voluntary and paid work. They have said that they would like to do this so that they have things to do in the day and they do not get bored.