



# Newsletter

Promoting Children and Young People's Wellbeing in Worcestershire.  
Common Assessment Framework, Lead Professional and Information Sharing.  
**Visit the website: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp)**

**Welcome** to the March/April edition of the Integrated Working Programme Newsletter.

We are at a really exciting stage now, with 12 completed common assessments and many practitioners across all agencies beginning to see the benefits of the common assessment. We will continue to keep you updated with how the process is working in Worcestershire.

If you have any suggestions for future newsletters please let us know.

*Jessica Glenn,  
Project Manager*

**Book your training!**

Visit [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp) for dates. We have been inundated with training requests, putting on additional dates where required. We will continue with this flexible approach to meet the training needs of staff from all agencies.

If you are unsure about what the Common Assessment means for you, get in touch and we will talk it through with you.

Call Jessica Glenn on **01905 728808** or Kay Harris on **01905 766082** or email [cafraining@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:cafraining@worcestershire.gov.uk)

CAF Co-ordinators will provide you with advice and support throughout the common assessment process.

**Number of staff across all agencies in Worcestershire briefed and trained so far (as at 21st March 2008):**

**Briefings to  
1113  
multi-agency  
staff**

**516  
multi-agency  
staff CAF  
trained**

**12  
completed  
common  
assessments**



# The common assessment process in Worcestershire!

## What is the impact of a common assessment?

### What is the impact of a common assessment?

A co-ordinated support review meeting has taken place in Worcestershire following on from a common assessment and plan of action (co-ordinated support plan), with a lead professional overseeing that plan.

There have been many positive changes in the child's behaviour and confidence when in school, a big part of this is down to parents changing things at home.

"All in all I have to say that the common assessment process, with co-ordinated input from professionals and the family has been a great success for this child! Still a long way to go for the family but a great start has been made."

*Neil Grimshaw,  
Early Intervention Family Support Worker*

### Completed common assessments

So far, common assessments in Worcestershire have been completed by Head Teachers, Deputy Head Teachers and SENCOs, Early Intervention Family Support Workers, Community Support Officers, Nursery Staff, Education Welfare Officers and Youth Support.

The briefings and training are being rolled out until September 2008. However, training, including refresher training will be an ongoing process and will be available after September.

It is an excellent achievement for Worcestershire that so many practitioners now have an awareness of the CAF and are trained to complete common assessments.

## Most popular query of the month

### If my agency or service wants to use the common assessment, do we always need a co-ordinated support meeting as well?

No. The common assessment is a tool to help you identify the needs of a child or young person. If after completing the assessment, it is clear what the needs are and how you can meet those needs (i.e. you can meet them or request the appropriate service) you won't need a co-ordinated support meeting. However, there may be a range of needs and a co-ordinated approach is required. In this instance a co-ordinated support meeting would be useful to gather the appropriate professionals and the family together, putting a plan of action in place.



## Youth Support Service (YSS) replace their existing assessment with the common assessment in Worcestershire!

### .....Embedding the Common Assessment Framework as part of our everyday practice

We, as a collective children's workforce now need to embed the common assessment process into our practice. Practitioners from all agencies will need to consider how the Common Assessment can inform existing assessments or if the Common Assessment process can replace any existing assessment process.

We are working with senior representatives from agencies and services to look at this in more detail. If you have any thoughts or comments about this, please do tell us: call Jessica Glenn on 01905 728808 or Debbie Key on 01905 765797.

As part of their integrated working development plan YSS has changed from using the Framework of Assessment for Children in Need and their Families to the Common Assessment Framework. Staff from a number of YSS projects are currently accessing the common assessment training in Worcestershire.

Kevin Rogers - Service Manager for Children, Young People and Families says, "This important part of our integrated working development plan builds on the YSS experience in Shropshire of using CAF alongside specialist assessment tools for nearly 18 months".

Social Workers and other project staff at Worcestershire Young Carers, one of the growing number of YSS projects, are also developing an IT based interactive assessment tool that can highlight the impact caring has on children, young people and their families.

He added "Young Carers are different because they have a statutory right to an assessment but it is important that our assessments are aligned with other service providers and their assessment framework".

YSS is an independent voluntary organisation and charity working across 5 local authority areas.

Kevin Rogers can be contacted on **01905 799677** or email **Kevin.Rogers@yss.org.uk**

Also visit **yss.org.uk**



## Your area CAF Co-ordinators are:

### **Sarah McMorro**

covers Tenbury, Wyre Forest,  
Hagley and Droitwich  
Tel: **01562 757867**



### **Jeff Barnard**

covers Redditch and Bromsgrove  
Tel: **01527 556168**



### **Peter Holland**

covers Evesham, Pershore,  
Malvern, Martley and Worcester  
Tel: **01905 765787**



**Don't forget to tell your CAF Co-ordinator if you intend to start a common assessment.**



## So what is the Practitioner and Manager CAF training like?

“A good mix of sitting and moving around!”

“Great to mix with other agencies.”

“Well organised with a mixture of activities.”

“Broken well into chunks, kept attention focused.”

“I thought it was going to be a long day! Thank you for making it interesting and supportive.”

“I do feel more confident now about using the common assessment.”

“I feel more confident to support my staff with completing common assessments.”

“A thoroughly enjoyable day!”

## Visit our new look website!

### **[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/iwp)**

The website provides you with the Practitioner Toolkit, information about training and the latest news about the common assessment process.

You will receive a hard copy of the Practitioner toolkit on your common assessment training. If you require additional hard copies please contact us (contact details below).

Look out for updates to the Practitioner toolkit on the website. The latest update includes a leaflet for families, providing an overview of the common assessment. Hard copies are available on request.

For further information or to become involved, contact Jessica Glenn, Project Manager

**Email: [jglenn@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:jglenn@worcestershire.gov.uk) Tel: 01905 72 8808**

For more information on the common assessment framework, lead professional & information sharing you can visit: **[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)**



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People's Strategic  
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