

The CAF Team

- identify Lead Professionals and facilitate getting CAFs up and running, including those stepping-down from Children's Social Care
- internally commission evidenced-based interventions via the CAF to the Youth and Family Support Team and emergency childcare packages (Early Years Vulnerable Families Fund) from the Early Years Team
- quality-assure CAFs and monitor that the child's journey is progressing. This will include assisting practitioners in finding solutions, when CAF action plans are stalling. Provide good multi-agency working and networking, by attending multi-agency events, staff inset days, briefings and via the CAF Practitioners Group.

Within the Team

- **CAF Coordinators** work geographically, covering each of the children's centre cluster areas and link with the schools and settings in these areas. They work closely with pastoral care staff in schools, nurseries and outreach workers in Children's Centres to use the CAF and e-CAF confidently, and provide a support and quality assurance role
- **Health CAF Coordinator** focuses on supporting health practitioners around the use of CAF and e-CAF process and also acts as a link between the CAF Team and local health professionals
- All the CAF Coordinators encourage the early identification of need across the local children's workforce, so that the right children are identified for support, at an early age, or at an early stage in the life of the problem
- **CAF Social Workers** cover the whole borough and support the smooth transition of cases between the threshold of Children's Social Care and the CAF arena ('step-up' and 'step-down'). They support practitioners to apply thresholds and made appropriate referrals into the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) in relation to CAF cases, where they are worried about a child's welfare where there are more chronic concerns. They also deal with the more complex early help 'contacts' 'stepping across' from the MASH, to ensure that there is a clear CAF plan put in place if required
- **Safer Families Practitioners** deal with the lower threshold police referrals in relation to domestic abuse, as well as lower threshold DV referrals from other practitioners. They undertake CAFs in situations where short-term support is required, commission domestic violence support from the Youth and Family Support Team, and signpost to other services as required. They also provide practical support around helping a victim to a safe place, on behalf of Children's Social Care
- **CAF Social Work Assistant** based within the MASH, carries out welfare checks, information gathers and provides signposting on the straight-forward early help 'contacts' triaged as green/early help by the MASH. They also act as the Early Help Champion within the MASH.

CAF Support Panel

This is a multi-agency forum, chaired by the Head of Service to consider CAFs which have become stuck, and where the issues cannot be resolved 'on the ground' with the help of the CAF Team.

The CAF Support Panel meets every 6 weeks and the panel covers the whole borough. Practitioners are encouraged to attend the Panel to present their cases and obtain advice from Panel members. However, if they are unable to attend, the CAF Coordinator can present the case on their behalf and provide feedback. Cases should be presented with consent from the young person or parent/carer, and proof of consent must be provided. (In exceptional circumstances, if a family does not give consent, but the practitioner is in need of advice, the case may be discussed anonymously, but this must first be agreed with the CAF Team).

Requests to present cases at this Panel is via the CAF Team.

The type of situations may include:

- where it is difficult to locate the appropriate resource or service to meet the family's needs
- where the family have disengaged from the process, but there are no safeguarding issues involved
- where it is difficult to locate an appropriate Lead Professional
- as a means of formally logging unmet and emerging needs arising from CAF cases.