

Information sharing

A young person's wish to keep information confidential from parents may be respected when there is evidence that it is in the young person's best interests.

Information that the family provide will only be shared with other agencies with their consent.

However there may be certain times when the people working with families will need to share information in the child's best interests.

For example:

- if they need to find out if a child is at risk of harm;
- to help a child who is at risk of harm;
- when an adult is at risk of harm; and
- to help prevent or detect a serious crime.

ContactPoint is a quick way to find out who else is working with a child. It helps professionals to:

- make sure that every child is getting the support they need;
- find the right support quickly, before problems get more serious;
- ensure that a child or a family doesn't have to explain the same things lots of different times; and
- make sure they are not duplicating work already being done by others.

For more information on **ContactPoint**

Phone: **0113 395 0900** or email:
contactpoint@educationleeds.co.uk

How do I obtain further information?

For more information about Children Leeds panels or to receive this leaflet in another language or Braille, please contact the CAF Team on **0113 247 6830** or email:

CAFteam@leeds.gov.uk or visit our website: **www.leedsinitiative.org/children**

Children Leeds Panels Welcome to a new way of helping Children and Young People



Children Leeds is the local partnership for agencies working with children and families in Leeds. It is led by Leeds City Council.

Children Leeds

Across Leeds we are already using the Common Assessment Framework(CAF) to bring services together around the needs of children, young people and families. Now we have introduced Children Leeds panels, and Intervention panels, as an additional way to address the most complex cases.

A separate leaflet tells you about Intervention panels, this leaflet is about Children Leeds panels.

What is a Children Leeds panel?

Children Leeds panels are meetings of local senior managers from across children's services. They meet to discuss how to focus support and services in a more flexible way to ensure children's more complex needs are met.

When would a case be presented to a panel?

When a young person and/or family is receiving multiple targeted and/or specialist services and those services have exhausted all of their strategies, skills, expertise and capacity or have been unable to move on, or the outcomes cannot be sufficiently improved, then a request for support can be made to a Children Leeds panel.

What is the purpose of the panel?

To address difficulties arising from complex cases where targeted and/or specialist services are already involved and the progress in those outcomes has been poor and problematic. Signpost or Multisystemic Therapy (MST) are two types of support that are accessed via the Children Leeds panel.

What is Signpost?

Signpost is a service that provides intensive family support to families that encompasses:

- family support;
- educational support;
- access to leisure and recreational activities.

What is the criteria for Signpost?

- families where there are children/young people aged 0-17;
- exhibit persistent anti-social behaviour or prolific offending behaviour;
- present with multiple complex needs, which may result in family breakdown; and
- the possibility of children being taken into care.

Signpost supports families both within their own homes, as well as in dispersed tenancies, and can be involved with them for up to 2 years.

Signpost cannot be accessed by families where parents have limited capacity to change e.g. learning disabilities, young people who are living independently, or young people with learning disabilities/severe mental health issues.

What is Multisystemic Therapy (MST)?

Multisystemic Therapy (MST) is an intensive family and community based intervention that targets the multiple causes of serious anti-social behaviour in young people. MST is a home-based, goal orientated programme where therapists are available to families 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

What is the criteria for Multisystemic Therapy cases to be presented at panel?

MST targets young people (aged 11-17yrs) who are at risk of coming into care, are involved with the Youth Offending Service and/or are exhibiting a high level of anti-social behaviour.

Typical referral behaviours for the young person will include a number of the following:

- serious disrespect and disobedience issues;
- truancy and academic problems;
- aggressive behaviour (violence, fighting, property destruction);
- criminal behaviour;
- drug and alcohol problems;
- running away; and
- other high risk behaviours e.g. self harm.

Multisystemic Therapy cases cannot be accessed by:

- adolescent sexual offenders (where this is the primary issue and other anti-social behaviours are absent);
- young people with autism;
- young people who are living independently; or
- young people who are in crisis because of active suicidal or psychotic behaviours (once stable, if the criteria is met a referral may be appropriate).

What happens next?

Once a case is accepted, the lead professional/key worker will be asked to attend a panel meeting. They will have an allocated time for the case to be presented and discussed in a solution focused way. Recommendations will be given by the panel to provide support for the child/young person and family.

How do you access a panel?

Contact the CAF team on **0113 247 6830** (or email **CAFteam@leeds.gov.uk**) for the initial discussion on how to make a request.