

## PROGRESS ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY ON PREVENTION

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### **Purpose of Report:**

To provide a progress update on Year One Health and Wellbeing Strategy relating to prevention.

### **1. Background**

A 10-year (2018-2028) Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Milton Keynes has been developed with cross-sector partners as well as public consultation and was approved at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 11th April 2018. The following priority was agreed for year one of the strategy at the HWB meeting on 27th June 2018:

SW3 Prevent smaller problems from escalating and needing specialist social care and health services

This report provides an update on Children's Social Care early interventions for families and young people, and the development of an Early Help Strategy.

### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended:

- that the Health and Wellbeing Board note the positive impact of the following examples of early intervention initiatives.
- that partners continue to engage in Children and Families processes to ensure that families receive appropriate support before their problems escalate.

### **3. Key Issues**

#### **Children and Family Practices**

Children and Family Practices (CFPs) are part of Milton Keynes Council's Children Social Care (CSC). CFPs work with families where the thresholds for social care are not met in order to prevent the escalation of issues to a point where social care intervention is required. This work involves:

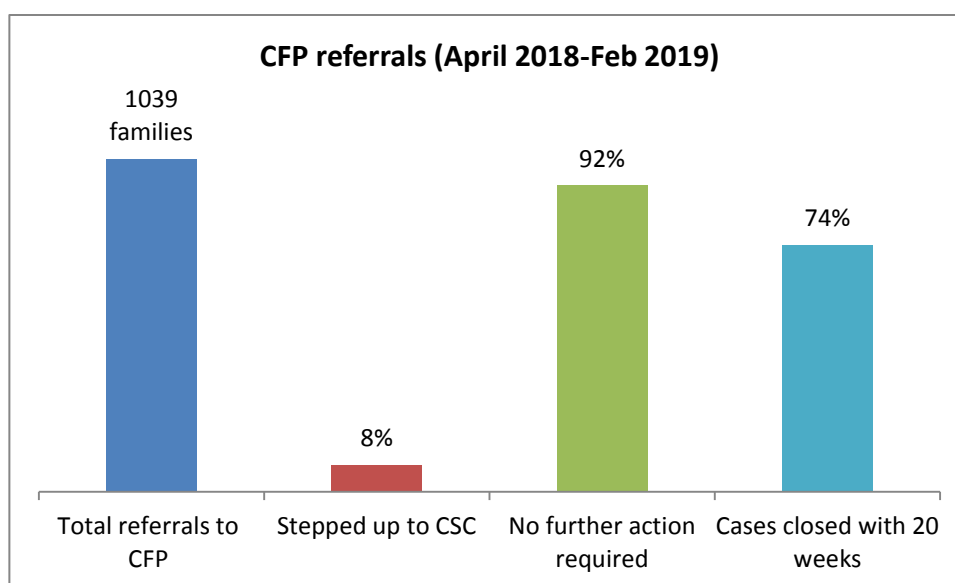
- Providing a named key worker who works with families to develop a tailored plan of support and act as a single point of contact for any other agency that is identified to provide support.
- Working with families to ensure children maintain good school attendance.
- Provide practical advice and support and access to parenting groups.

- Helping families to develop and maintain positive family relationships.
- Ensuring the views of children and young people are listened to,
- Signposting to support services including job and training opportunities, budgeting and debt advice.

CFPs are made up of teams of experienced staff with a range of knowledge and skills in early help and family based support and advice. They have effective links with a range of partners including:

- Schools, children's centres, nurseries
- Health services
- Housing
- Youth Services
- Police
- Youth offending and probations services
- Community and voluntary groups

In the period from April 2018 to Feb 2019, 1039 episodes of Children and Families Practice support have been opened in Milton Keynes and as a result 1671 young people, under the age of 18, have received direct intervention (repeat support discounted). Only 8 per cent of those families supported have been stepped up to Children Social Care, therefore 92 per cent success outcome rate of those open to CFP.

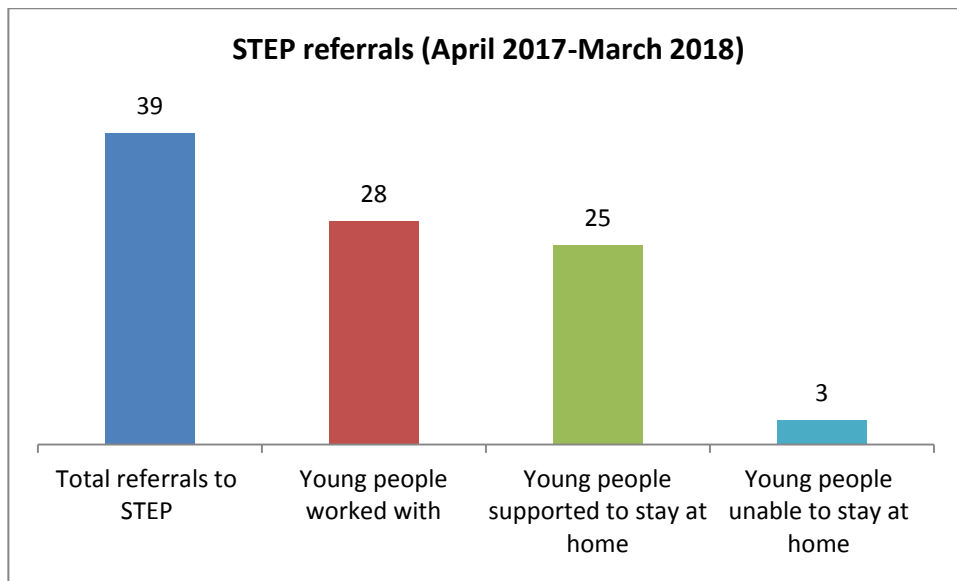


In the same period 74 per cent of cases were closed within a 20 week period meaning that work with the family is completed more quickly than where there is social care involvement, therefore ensuring that resources have had the greatest reach possible. Resources have been managed without the requirement for waiting lists meaning that support has consistently reached the family within 1 week of referral, from parent or professional.

Children and families supported needed help in addressing a range of issues including homelessness, debt and financial issues, physical and mental health needs, domestic abuse. Work undertaken in partnership with universal health services, education providers, and specialist services e.g. CAMHS, MK Act.

## STEP

STEP provides crisis intervention to young people on the edge of care whom without intensive support are likely to be accommodated by the Local Authority.



A total of 39 referrals were received from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to support adolescents (12-17 years) between April 2017 and March 2018. STEP worked with 28 young people and two of these were over two episodes following a re-referral to the service. Where a referral is not taken forward, this is where young people refuse to engage or where STEP services are not required.

Of the 28 young people who were worked with, 25 were supported to remain at home with their parents or immediate family. Only three young people who were referred to STEP were unable to stay at home with parents (10 per cent) this is a reduction of 11 per cent from 2016-17.

STEP continues to have a positive impact in cases where young people have been at risk of needing to be accommodated and none of the young people referred to STEP this year have become children in care.

### Development of an Early Help Strategy

A multi-agency Task and Finish Group of the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Board has been established to develop an Early Help Strategy. A draft strategy is expected to be circulated to partners shortly for comment. In addition, a hub style web page is planned which will more clearly articulate what early help services are available and how they can be accessed.

Background Papers: None