

Acting Early

1 What is Acting Early?

Acting Early has three main aims:

- Give disadvantaged and vulnerable children the best start in life.
- Reduce the cost of dealing with later health and social problems.
- Provide effective, supportive and preventative approaches in pregnancy and early childhood.

The diagram below demonstrates the agencies we believe need to be involved to help us achieve these aims:



Since going live in April 2014, *Acting Early* has created integrated teams with core membership from midwives, health visitors and Children's Centres to deliver coordinated care from conception to 5 years old. Weekly team meetings are held with social work colleagues present. These meetings allow concerns about any child to be raised and acted on before a problem becomes a crisis. We encourage GPs to refer any cases of concern to their local weekly meeting.

2 How has Acting Early made a difference?

We know that Coventry has traditionally performed poorly on some key areas of health. Since the programme was started we have already seen significant, objective improvements. Smoking cessation at delivery has seen 71% of our sites meeting the national target in 2015/16 compared to just 35% in 2014/15. We have also seen 65% of our sites hit the national target for early booking for pregnancy, up from 41% the year prior.

Parent feedback has been positive – they appreciate the continuity of care the locality-based teams provide. As a universal

'core offer' support can be accessed without the stigma of escalated referral. *Acting Early* is also working with parents to equip them to become active leaders in their local community and we are encouraging them to work with commissioners to shape services around their needs in the future.

Feedback from GP Practice Manager, Tile Hill

“We find the meetings most useful - it is a chance for the various service users to share their concerns. If we have any concerns, we are able to contact team members before the meetings and raise these.”

Acting Early facilitated data sharing agreements to give different agencies the confidence to talk to one another. We undertook a series of workforce development sessions to up-skill staff and improve collaborative working. Our staff have recognised and appreciated the benefit to their patients the redesigned service has brought. Staff involved

have reported feeling better supported in their roles and feel they have more robust handover system at key points in a child's life.

Case Study

“A GP asked for a case to be discussed at the Integrated Team Meeting due to concerns that a parent had presented 17 times at the surgery in a short period of time. The GP had concerns that there may be underlying emotional abuse from the partner. The Health Visitor brought the case to the meeting and the Social Worker did some checks on protocol, the partner had a previous history of domestic abuse with many past partners. With this information the Health Visitor Team Manager allocated a Health Visitor to offer a CAF (Common Assessment Framework) and contacted Danielle of Children & Families to discuss the case further. Mum actually made a disclosure to the school and the case went to Social Care due to domestic abuse. In the past we have never had a GP bring a case to the Children's Centre. By sharing this information professionals were able to put together a timely potential package of support, and they were able to advise the GP of the support available to Mum.”

leaflets and posters that can be displayed in local surgeries to signpost families to *Acting Early* without the need for a formal referral.

4 Further Information

Each *Acting Early* area has designed a service specific to their own needs. Therefore we recommend getting in touch with your local representatives for more information and their preferred referral pathway.

In August an email was circulated to Practice Managers with details of how to get in touch with your local integrated team. This information is repeated below for convenience.

3 GP Involvement

The *Acting Early* integrated team are a great resource for a GP who has a concern about a parent, family or individual child. In a 10 minute consultation it can be difficult to ascertain a full picture of what is going at home. We want local GPs to access the service and refer cases for discussion at the weekly meeting of their local integrated service so that support can be put in place at the first signs that a family is struggling.

GP Practices have a responsibility towards improving Coventry's performance against the public health KPIs (Key Performance Indicators). We know that addressing underlying social issues improves health in the long term. We would encourage GPs to input into the monthly management meetings where team members discuss how to make these targeted improvements.

Acting Early provides a universal service for children under 5. GP surgeries offer a great opportunity to let new parents know what services are available for them. We have

Integrated Team	Contact names	Contact details	Local Children's Centre
Canley & Tile Hill	Faye Radbourne (CC) Nadine Anderson (HV)	Faye.Radbourne@coventry.gov.uk nadine.anderson@covwarkpt.nhs.uk	024 7678 7801
Foleshill & Stoke Heath	Nicola Martin Jones Aneesa Jamil (HV)	Nicola.Martin-Jones@coventry.gov.uk Aneesa.Jamil2@covwarkpt.nhs.uk	024 7678 5575
Valley House	Anne Mackie (HV) Michelle Ward (CC)	anne.mackie@covwarkpt.nhs.uk michelle.ward@valleyhouse.org	024 7626 6280
Bellgreen & Moathouse	Kaye Williams (CC) Jane Rawlings (MW) Nicky Dowd (HV)	Kaye.Williams@coventry.gov.uk jayne.rawlins@uhcw.nhs.uk Nicola.Dowd@covwarkpt.nhs.uk	024 7678 5621
Richard Lee	Ruth Colgan (CC) Jackie Horsburgh	Ruth.Colgan@coventry.gov.uk Jackie.Horsburgh@covwarkpt.nhs.uk	024 7678 6148
Tommies & Flutterbies	Caroline Fooks (CC) Marie Maguire (MW)	caroline.fooks@tommieschildcare.co.uk Marie.Maguire@uhcw.nhs.uk	024 7666 1398
Radford St Augustine's & Spon Gate	Jane Mousley (CC) Rachel Best	jane.mousley@coventry.gov.uk Rachel.Best@covwarkpt.nhs.uk	024 7678 8444
Barley Lea & Gosford Park	Katy McGinty (M) Beki Horton (CC) Sue Ridgeway (HV)	Katherine.McGinty@uhcw.nhs.uk Beki.Horton@coventry.gov.uk Susan.Ridgeway@covwarkpt.nhs.uk	024 7678 8489
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