

SET Pilot

- **October 2015 until end April 2016**
- **All new referrals received into the Lisburn Locality Gateway Team and the Spoe team during this period**
- **SW's required to complete an ACE Questionnaire with all families requiring an assessment and to analyse the information obtained within their initial Unocini assessment.**
- **The ACE assessment was to be integrated into the existing UNOCINI assessments / Pathway assessments undertaken by Gateway and FIT.**

Early Changes to original Pilot

- ACE questionnaire not appropriate for the types of cases managed by Spoe - Spoe team no longer a part of the pilot.
- From Nov 2015 Family Intervention Team (FIT) SW's undertake the ACE assessment with any cases transferring from Gateway at the point of ICPC or Initial LAC.
- During the pilot period ACE questionnaires were completed in relation to 270 families

Evaluation

- During the pilot period ACE questionnaires were completed in relation to 270 families
- Data from 122 questionnaires was uploaded and was analysed

Evaluation Question

The extent to which the intervention was delivered and it's perceived utility, acceptability, sustainability and impact.

Comparing a pre & Post ACE assessment

Case A

This referral was in relation to concerns of Neglect.

There were indicator's from the referral that mum had experienced adversities as a child as she had been on the CPRx2 and was described as a troubled teenager with mental health problems.

The referral alleged that home conditions were below an acceptable standard and that the child was unkempt and missing a lot of school. This was confirmed by a SW visit and by multidisciplinary contact with the school.

The family moved in with maternal Grandparents. The

Comparisons Cotd...

Case B

This referral was in relation to a child's extreme behaviours, wrecking family home, social isolation etc

The referral notes that the children had previously been on the Child Protection Register in another Trust following allegations of physical abuse.

ACE questionnaire was used and Dads score was 4, he highlighted significant trauma in his childhood including sexual abuse. Mums score was 11 and she also disclosed significant trauma in her childhood.

Within the assessment the ACE experienced by both parents was directly linked to the current problems the family were experiencing. The family were noted to have complex needs, stretching from the early childhood trauma experienced by all the family. Whilst there was some focus on the children's behaviours there was also an appropriate focus on parenting deficits, and how the parents needed to develop their parenting skills.

Analysis of the information gathered indicated that the focus for Social Work intervention needed to be on the parents primarily. Appropriate support services were put in place for this family and the assessment from this social worker was much more focused and analytical than the one completed pre-ace.

Findings

- Staff reported an increased understanding of the impact of ACE on functioning and life outcomes as well as gaining a better understanding of the parent and child's needs.
- Staff found that the questionnaire was easily incorporated into the Unocini documentation.
- Staff reported that parents found it helpful in understanding their own decisions and choices in life and in considering a way forward for their families.
- Operational Managers reported an improvement in the quality of the analysis and reflection both in reports and in operational meetings.
- Both staff and managers reported that case plans were more client-specific and tailored more towards individual needs.

Findings Cotd...

- Applying the ACE questionnaire did increase the time required for visits. However staff felt this was balanced by the increased information provided and the better understanding of the client's situation which was gained.
- Staff valued the wider training made available to them through the pilot. They felt more confident in their decision making and interventions with children and families as a consequence.
- Identified need were able to be met through existing resources.
- Turnover of staff and instability in Social Work teams hampered the implementation.