



Progress report

April – November 2012

Number of referral agreed for the year in the contract	93	
Number of referrals agreed for the year with steering group	105	
Number of referrals received	78	
Number of initial FGC meetings	53	83%
Number of review meetings	12	23%
Number of no conferences	11	
Open referrals	14	

With 5 month till the end of the financial year it looks like we are again going to be faced with a situation of demand outstripping the supply of available referrals. This situation needs to be reviewed early in the new year. The conversion rate of referrals into FGCs continues to be high which indicates that referrals are appropriate and timely. While the number of reviews appears low it is because many referrals have got reviews booking in for later in the year.

Link work

Alex, our senior FGC practitioner, goes into each team every 3-4 weeks to raise the profile of FGCs, discuss potential referrals and provide individual training. This system seems to work well for the department and ensures FGCs remain embedded in social work practice and that referrals are appropriate. She also attends team meetings every quarter.

We also have strong links with RISE and YAP. The RISE manager attended our practice development groups twice a year to discuss issues relating to domestic abuse, while YAP attends twice a year to discuss advocacy and participation.

Training

We are notified when a new social worker join the department and we make sure that we meet with them and talk to them about FGCs and how they are used in B&H. We also do short training sessions in teams to ensure everyone is up to date with current FGC practice and outcomes.

Accredited training

There is a drive nationally to ensure Family group conference coordinators are accredited to an agreed national standard. Daybreak is accredited by the open college network to provide accredited FGC coordinator training externally as well as internally. We are working towards all our coordinators being accredited within 3 years. Currently 6 of the 9 B&H coordinators as well as our senior practitioner are accredited.

Appendix 2

Student placement

We continue to have SW students on placement in our B&H project and we currently have a 2nd student from Winchester University on placement.

Added value

As an independent organisation Daybreak is often able to engage with families who have a difficult relationship with children's services. An example of this is a recent referral from the 16+ team for a young girl CJ. The relationship between this girl, who is a ward of court, and children's services has totally broken down. A FGC would only be possible if facilitated by an independent agency.

We are also able to visit families pre-referral if they or the social worker is not sure a FGC is appropriate for them. We discuss the FGC process and make sure the family is able to give informed consent for the referral.

Lis Gohrisch
FGC manager

6th November 2012