



Integrated Working Multi Agency Support Teams

Bulletin 1

For practitioners

THIS BULLETIN WILL BRING COLLEAGUES UP TO DATE ON:

The appointment of MAST MANAGERS, the development of MAST SITES, the progress in establishing OPERATIONAL PROCESSES for MASTs, and new posts for targeted services.

MAST Managers

These are crucial appointments to the delivery of targeted support through MASTs.

Unfortunately, we were unable to make

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appointments to these posts in December 2008. Although there was considerable local interest, and applications, the posts required agencies to

sponsor applicants as a commitment to integrated working and, perhaps unsurprisingly in these uncertain financial times, that level of commitment was difficult to realise. We are quietly confident, however, that the posts can now be supported financially by the City Council & its partners and expect to be able to advertise them again later this month. If you might be interested in applying for one of these posts, look out for information on the council or your own website and in CYP service mailings. Previous applicants will be automatically considered and will not need to re-apply. Due to this delay **the new operational start for MASTs will now be early summer 2009.**

MAST Sites

We can confirm that arrangements are being put in place to operate MASTs initially from the following sites from April 2009.

MAST Area 1	Deansfield High School
MAST Area 2	Parkfield High School, Bilston
MAST Area 3	to be confirmed
MAST Area 4	Warstones Primary School
MAST Area 5	Valley Park Campus
MAST Area 6	BEST offices, Northicote School (temp) Priory Green School from Summer 2009
MAST Area 7	to be confirmed
MAST Area 8	Jennie Lee Centre

Negotiations are still underway on the remaining two sites but we will be able to confirm them in the February bulletin.

Operational processes for MASTs

In order to deliver consistent access to targeted support for children, young people, parents and families wherever they live in the city, it is crucial to develop common processes, protocols and systems across the eight teams linked to the Wolverhampton Supporting Children Model and incorporating the key processes of CAF, ContactPoint and the role of the lead professional.

The development and agreement of these will form a key part of the MAST Manager induction and preparation programme that will start in April 2009. These will be shared not only with staff based, and linked to, MASTs but also with the eight MAST Area Management groups; they will be able to discuss these at their May meetings, ensuring that the service develops to meet the needs of its users. Until then, the BEST and AREA teams will continue to support schools as currently.

MAST Area Management Meetings

The first round of meetings due to take place on the 27th and 28th January and the 3rd and 4th February 2009 have been cancelled due to the delay in the start of MAST Managers. The first meetings of these groups will now take place in May 2009.



New posts for targeted services

Advertisements will appear in the local and national press shortly for 10 new posts to work as part of the city's developing targeted services for parents, in support of raising achievement for children and young people. They are:



2 x Parenting Experts

These professionals will work with some of our most challenging families through evidence-based training programmes and other strategies. They have been piloted nationally in other local authorities as part of the 'Respect' agenda and have proved to be a valuable addition to targeted services. In Wolverhampton, in addition to their case work and assessment commitments, they will also provide training to other professionals, support the Parenting Strategy Officer in the delivery of the Parent and Family Support Strategy and provide professional support to PSAs.



8 x Parent Support Advisers (PSAs)

Based in MASTs, these professionals will provide front-line support to parents and families who need it, often identified through the CAF process or as a result of other professional intervention. Like Parenting Experts, the impact of PSAs in the national pilots has encouraged the DCSF to identify funding that can be used for employing PSAs across the country.