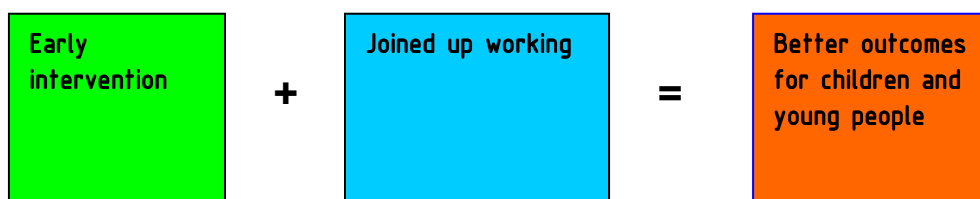


## Change Meeting



The Change for Children system is a framework that allows professionals and agencies to work together to support vulnerable children who are at risk of not achieving the five outcomes.

### What is a Change Meeting?

- Bringing together practitioners to work in partnership to achieve better outcomes for children and young people
- Working preventatively with children, young people and their families/carers before situations reach a crisis point
- Recognising and building on existing strengths with children, young people and their families/ carers and not emphasising their weaknesses
- Working in a **solution focused** way enabling children, young people and their families to find their own solutions.

### Who can call a meeting?

- Any practitioner can call a meeting if they feel the child, young person or their family / carer would benefit from it or that the only way forward in address the concerns is to hold the meeting

### Do I need to have done a CAF first?

- **You decide**
- You can call a Change Meeting and from that meeting you could decided if you need to do a CAF because the issues are more complex then you first thought. The CAF will give you a greater understanding of the child and their families/ carer needs

Or

- You can undertake a CAF with the child and their family having gained more information about them. You decided that you need to call a Change Meeting to bring together other professionals that may be able to offer support and advice or work directly with the family in a solution focused way.

### If I call a Change Meeting does this mean I will be the Lead Professional?

- **NO**
- By calling the meeting you are the practitioner that has identified that this family needs more support
- The meeting should decide who the most appropriate person is to be the **Lead Professional**

## **I have been identified as the Lead Professional, what do I need to do?**

- Co-ordinate the delivery of the planned work everyone has agreed to undertake during the meeting.
  - Work in partnership with other practitioners to deliver the planned support.
  - Agree who will undertake the CAF (it would be beneficial to undertake a CAF as it will give you more information about the needs of the child and their family/carer )
  - Develop a positive relationship with the child, their family and carer and communicate without using jargon
- **As the lead Professional you have three core functions**
    1. Act as a single point of contact
    2. Co-ordinate the delivery of the agreed action
    3. Reduce overlap and inconsistency in the service received.

**As the lead professional you are accountable to your own agency, you are not responsible or accountable for the actions of others.**

## **Who will attend the meeting?**

- The family must be invited
- The child if they are of an age and understanding
- All practitioners who are working with the family or who would be able to contribute to a plan of support for the family

## **Who will not attend the meeting?**

- Social Care do not attend Change Meetings because they sit within the thresholds of level 2 and 3a. It is up to the practitioners working with the child/young person and their family/carer to put together a plan that meets their needs, by drawing on your own skills and using the tools you have.
- If you believe that the concerns are a 3b - 4 then a referral must be made to Social Care.

## **What are the advantages of a Change Meeting?**

**The aim is to ensure that children and their families unmet needs are met**

- By completing a CAF, it identifies at an early stage when support is needed, the Change Meeting will bring together the right people
- Identify the right support that is needed for the child/ young person and their family,
- Help encourage and support children to achieve the **Five Outcomes**
- Identify and access the right support advice and guidance now and in the future

## **For practitioners**

- Have a shared responsibility for specific outcomes for children, young people and their family/carers
- Have a positive experience of working in partnership with other practitioners
- Develop your own skills and understanding about the needs of children and their families and add these skills to your own toolbox.
- Developing your knowledge about other services that are available to offer support.