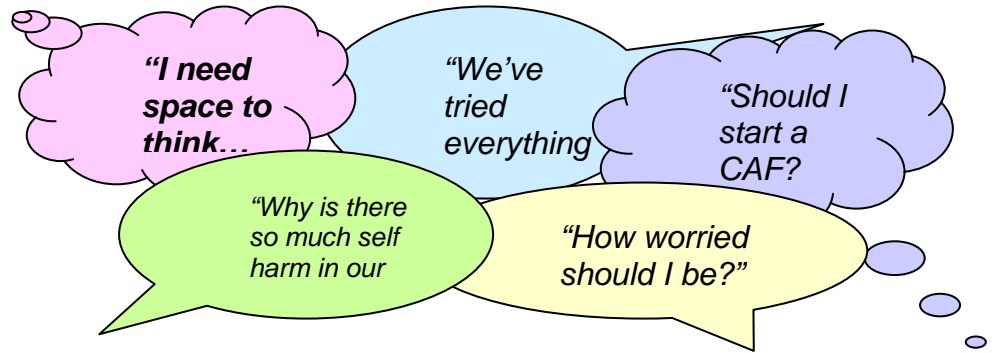


Children and Young People's Planning Forums



WHY? "At any one time, 1 in 10 children and young people have a mental health problem, the majority of which are either emotional disorders, (depression or anxiety), or conduct disorders." (ONS 2004)

"Not addressing poor mental health in childhood results in a proportion of young people who continue to have: mental health problems including self-harm and increased suicide; low educational and employment achievement; increased violent, anti-social behaviour and offending behaviour." (DH 2008)

Across the Children's Workforce, children with emotional well being and a level of mental health needs that fall below the threshold for specialist CAMHS service are a concern for us all. The need to improve joined up practice, communication and planning that targets these children sooner has been strongly voiced by schools, GP's, Voluntary and Community Sector agencies and many others who support children and their families on a day-to-day basis.

HOW? By using existing CAF Planning Meetings as forums to focus on thinking and planning for this group of children with input from CAMHS specialists

The Forums: Provide space to think about children with complex and worrying circumstances who fall below the threshold for a specialist assessment.

- ✓ Provide an opportunity to discuss children's needs using jargon free language
- ✓ Improve information sharing.
- ✓ Encourage a better-integrated response to this group of children. (Who else can help?)
- ✓ Identify gaps in local services to meet the needs of these children at an early intervention level and link this information to emerging commissioning processes.
- ✓ Increase the confidence of staff that work directly with children at an early intervention level.
- ✓ Discuss and plan how we can work in an integrated way to meet the needs of identified local groups of children with specific lower level emotional well-being needs.

"Children and Young People's Planning Forums" (formerly known as CAF Planning Meetings).

One planning forum meeting a month in each area is dedicated to children and young people of any age for whom there are identified emotional well-being needs. A representative from the CAMHS locality team and a Primary Mental Health Worker will attend this meeting as a priority to provide advice and guidance on issues raised, and queries around levels of need and thresholds. Primary Mental Health Workers will continue to attend the other Forums. This monthly emotional well-being planning forum meeting will entail:

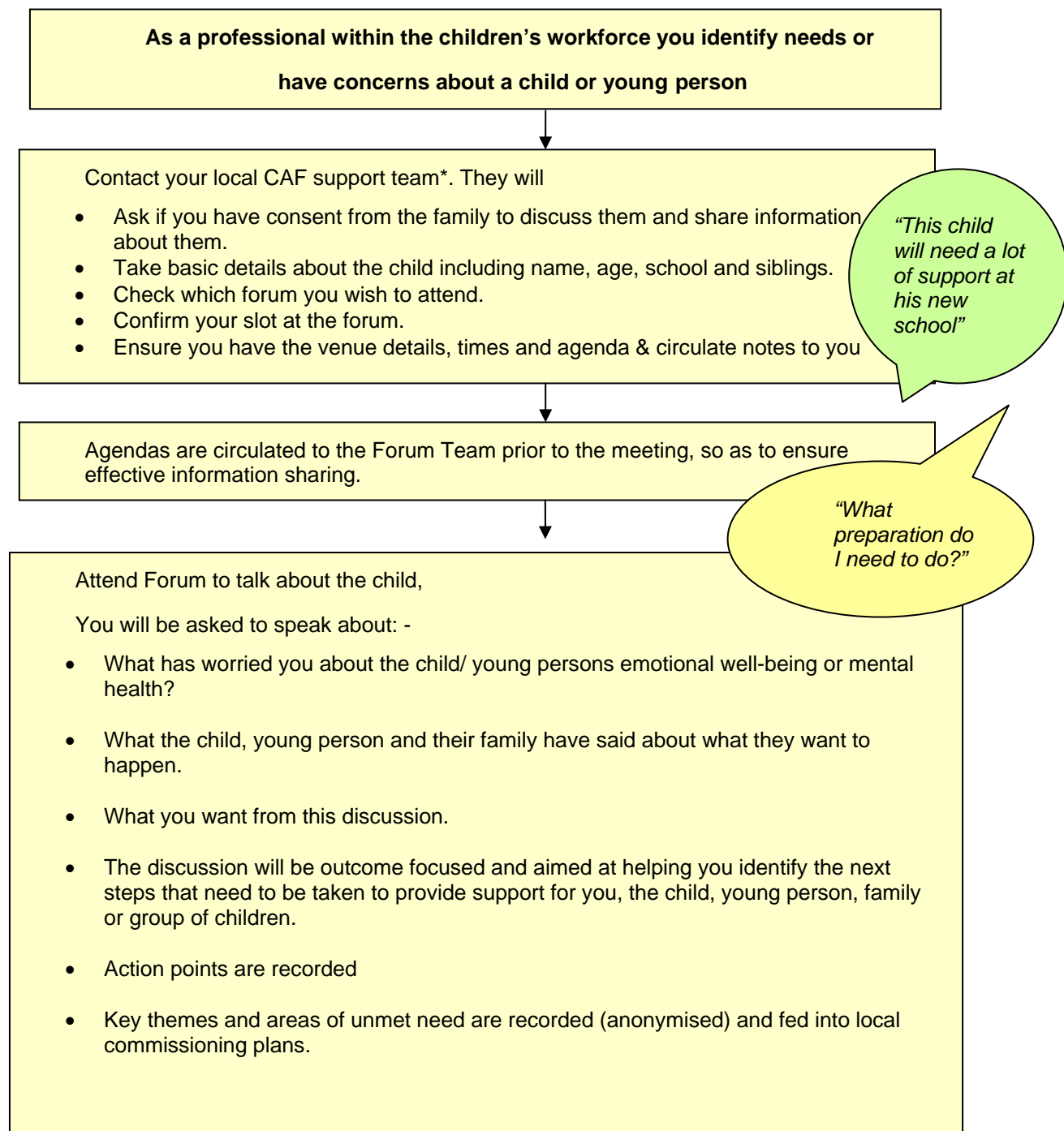
- ✓ 15 minute time slots to discuss individual children (This will be reviewed)
- ✓ Group discussion considering emerging themes and needs of groups of children and families within the community.

Any member of the children's workforce can access this forum but **consent** to share information from the child/family is required in every case unless raising a thematic issue where individual children will not be identified.

Whole families can be discussed with consent. Integrated Working team managers chair the meetings but this may be developed to include others as appropriate.

How to Get Involved...

(Raising a Case for Discussion)



Local Integrated Support Teams

Chichester / Bognor Regis	07872 416205
Adur	01903 270157
Littlehampton / Worthing	01903 270183
Horsham/Crawley	01403 229160
Mid-Sussex	01403 229190