



## **Partnership statement - Early Support Assessments**

As a Partnership, we are going through a period of significant transformation aimed at improving further the outcomes for Families and Children across Wiltshire. Much of the work previously done under the WSCB umbrella will now shift to FACT. Early help and prevention is one such area.

We share a clear ambition to ensure families access the right support when they need it. In support of this, our shared intention in Wiltshire is to move away from CAF to “Early Support Assessments” and drive towards a singular assessment and plan that follows a child seamlessly through their journey through services.

This briefing note sets out our future intentions for Early Support Assessments and how agencies and practitioners should respond now until those changes are made. From listening to our multi-agency workforce and learning from our Baby J SCR (2016), Wiltshire partners have agreed that although the principles of the framework remain sound, CAF as a brand is nearing the end of its shelf life.

In support of these conclusions, Wiltshire Council is introducing a new integrated Case Management System (CMS) across early help, early years, education, SEND and safeguarding activities. This new IT system from Liquid Logic has the potential to allow controlled direct access by partners agencies and two-way activity direct with children and families. Specifically, it will allow us to achieve our aim of a “singular assessment and plan” which follows a child throughout their journey through services.

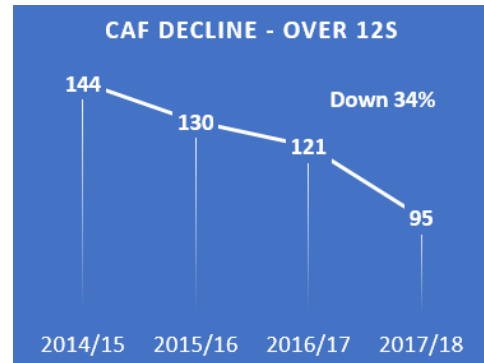
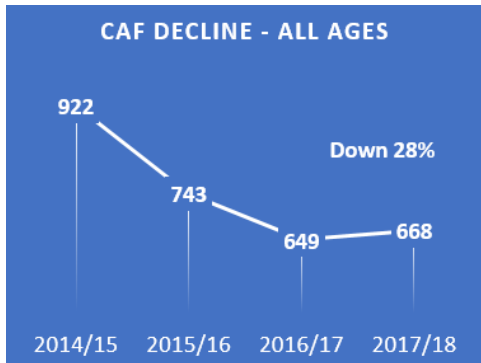
At the FACT Board held on 29th March a paper was presented which described the partnership opportunities for shared-use of the new system and the associated benefits for children and families. The FACT Board agreed to the outlined approach and work has begun to plan for IT-enabled integrated working across the partnership.

Our new online “Diagnostic And Referral Tool” (DART) was fully piloted with schools and other settings and launched during 2017. Feedback from settings has mainly been positive. At the time of the survey, around 15% felt they were not yet able to comment on the DART as it was ‘early days’. However, the majority (approximately 65%) reported positives such as it being intuitive and easy to use and it supports professional decision making.

Further developments are underway, including the move of DART to our new Liquid Logic platform by November 2018 and developing a child-friendly version.

We are on an exciting journey working towards an innovative and integrated approach towards early support.

Until an alternative Early Support Assessment is in place the expectation is that the CAF process continues alongside the use of the DART where appropriate. Our CAF completion rate is slowing to worrying levels and this is especially true for children over 12yrs.



We need to reverse this decline in CAF completion and ensure that children who need it can access early support appropriately and swiftly.

Could you ensure that this briefing and these core messages are disseminated down through your organisations please.



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