

Case study showing positive impact through use of the multi agency panel

Background

- “A” was 16yrs old, at time of the referral made to the MASH on his behalf by his mother.
- His mother contacted the MASH as she was concerned about her son’s mental health and the fact that his anxieties had increased to the point he was unable to leave the home. He had stopped attending college and she was finding his behaviour difficult to manage. She felt his anxieties had increased since his father had been placed into a mental health hostel almost next-door where the family lived. Fairly recently, “A” had disclosed to his girlfriend and his CAMHS worker, that his father had sexually abused him when he was much younger. He had also witnessed his father be violent towards his mother. Police and Social Care had been involved around the time of the disclosure, but “A” did not feel strong enough to take the matter further. He however did not want to see his father again. A has ADHD as well as mental health issues and has an ECH Plan

East-Central multi-agency panel

- The Case was brought to East-Central Early Help Panel, having been triaged by the MASH as an Early Help Case.
- **At the Panel**, it transpired from the SEN representative, that “A’s” EHCP Plan (to ensure his special educational needs were met) had not been recently reviewed, and that the named educational setting, was not where “A” was receiving his current education. In fact, the college, where “A” was attending, were not even aware that “A” had an EHCP and were perhaps not fully meeting his educational special needs.
- The Police shared at Panel, that “A’s” father was known to mental health services and had been known to carry weapons (for example swords).
- CAMHS- shared that the Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist was well aware of the increase in “A’s” anxious state since his father had moved into the same street, and she had tried very hard to liaise with Adult Service to see if they could get his father moved, but had not had much success with her enquiries. CAMHS were continuing to offer talking therapies, but “A” had started missing appointments with them over the last few weeks.
- Housing- The Housing Representative noted that “A’s” mother had already met with a housing officer last week requesting help to move to another part of the borough (the family were in privately rented accommodation) and had been open about the reasons. The Panel Housing Rep, agreed that the named Housing Officer would be able to join the CAF Team Around the Child, and they would do what they could do to move the family.
- The Youth Service had just started working with “A”, as part of an out of court disposal and would be offering him a triage service for the next 3 months. He had been involved in an altercation with a security guard when shop-lifting.

- At the Panel it was agreed, that a CAF Social Worker would initiate the CAF and ensure a clear plan was put in place. It was also agreed that the Team Around the Child would include: The Family, CAMHS, Barnet Homes, The College, SEND case worker and Adult Services.

Following panel

- “M”, the CAF Social Worker met with the family, and completed an early help assessment (or CAF) which helped to gain a fuller picture of “A’s” needs as well as his strengths and to develop a plan to ensure that his needs could be met. This was to include his need to feel safe from harm, to have his emotional needs met, and his educational and social needs met.
- “M” spoke about being impressed about how quickly she was able to get the Team Around the Family/Child in place and that she almost had to ‘play catch-up’ with all the other professionals as they were so keen to get together and see how they could assist. She felt this was because the key agencies had been part of the Panel discussion and were up to speed with the issues and clear what was needed.
- A and his mother were helped to move to new rented accommodation away from “A’s” father within 2 weeks of the Panel. They were both delighted with the move.
- Adults Services agreed to carry out a new risk assessment regarding “A’s” father.
- The SEND Team ensured that the EHCP was reviewed, and that the meetings were aligned with the CAF meetings. The College were now fully aware of “A’s” needs and agreed to do what they could to help support him.
- The Youth Service agreed to offer “A” additional support, in addition to their triage service

Five months on –CAF closed

- The case was brought back to East-Central Panel in March 2017, as the CAF Social Worker had left the service, and was aware that we’d need to find a new Lead Professional for the CAF. However, it was noted that the “A” had made a great deal of progress, and that a CAF/multi-agency plan was no longer required. “A” had now engaged well with his Youth Worker and had just started counselling via the Youth Service. He had self-assessed himself as 8 on a scale from 0-10, in terms of feeling ready to start counselling. He also had started to leave the home more regularly, and was exploring a new training course. He felt well supported by both his girlfriend and mother.
- There have been no further referrals into Family Services and no further reported incidents of anti-social behaviour via the police.
- The plan is now to close the CAF, if the family are in agreement, and for “A” to be supported through universal plus services.

This case has been particularly successful, due to the rapid sharing of information between agencies and the commitment to supporting the CAF process (contributing towards the assessment, the plan and attending the Team Around the Child meetings).