

# **Early Identification, Assessment and Intervention.**

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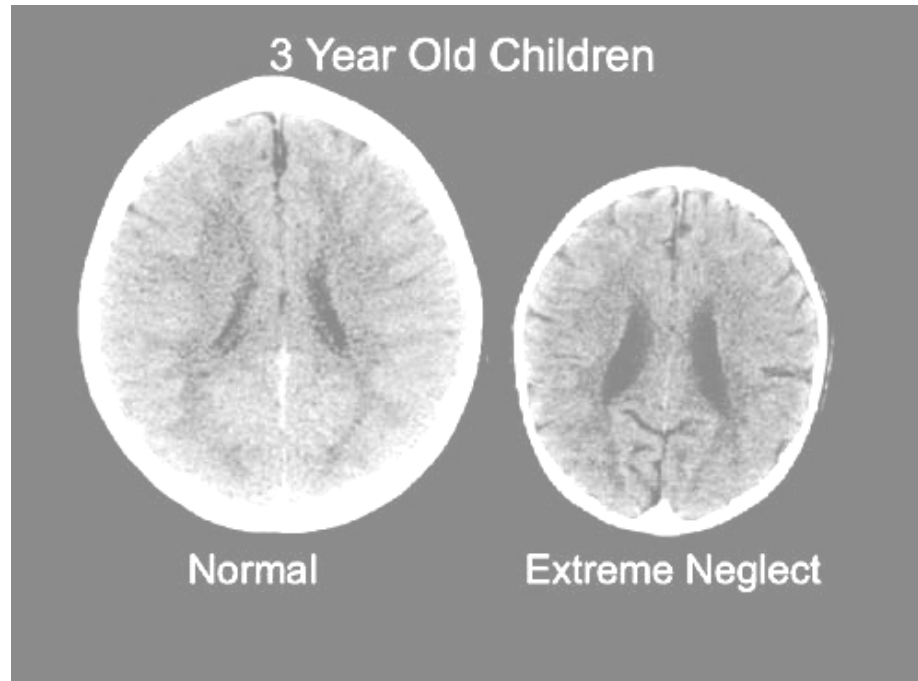
# Early Intervention and Prevention in Barnet

- Investing in early intervention and prevention to reduce the number of children and families experiencing complex problems
- Protecting the most vulnerable people from avoidable harm or abuse underpins everything we do

# Early Identification, Assessment and Intervention

Putting the Community First

**BARNET**  
LONDON BOROUGH



The effects of neglect begin early and remain throughout a child's life even into adulthood.

Widely accepted:

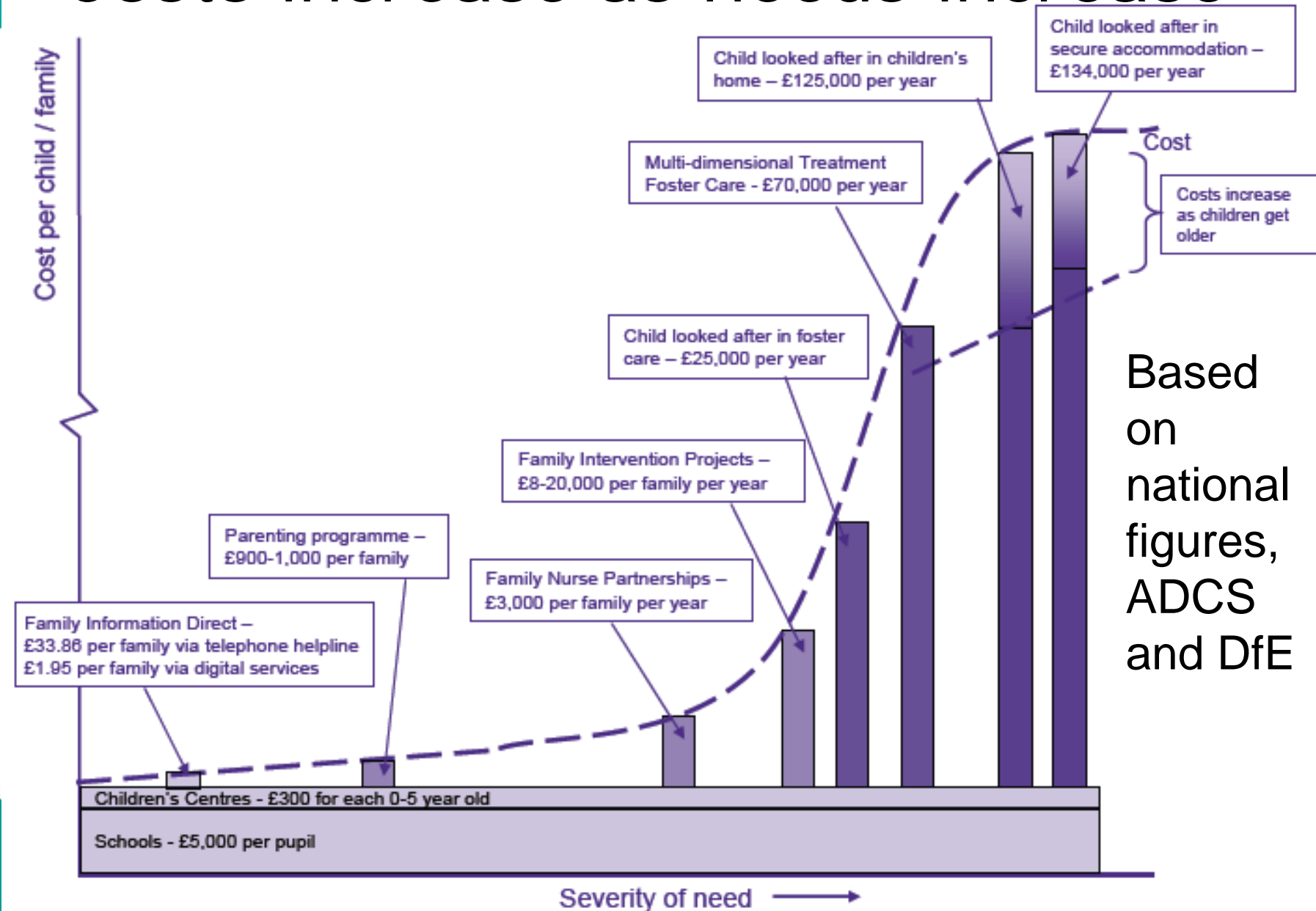
- Graham Allen review – early intervention
- Frank Field review – child poverty
- Munro review- importance of early identification and early help.

Implications for:

**Society** – early damage requires further support from social care, education, health, housing, police, and other services.

**Individual** – reduced life chances

# Costs increase as needs increase



# Early Intervention and Prevention services in Barnet

- Children's Centres
- Safer Families Domestic Violence project
- Family Focus Team
- Multi-agency support team - supporting Common Assessment Framework process
- Youth Support Services
- Supported early years child care packages

# Troubled Families Division

- Recent Government initiative from DCLG
- Family Support practitioners
- In Barnet division consists of:

◆ **Family Focus Team**

◆ **Intensive Family Focus Team (FIP)**

# What is a 'troubled family'?

- 120,000 troubled families nationally
- 705 troubled families identified in Barnet
- 3 criteria

- ◆ **Have an adult on out of work benefits**
- ◆ **Children not in school**
- ◆ **Involved with Crime and ASB**

- High cost to public purse

# Family Focus model of work

- A dedicated caseworker with low case-loads to work intensively with the whole family
- whole family assessment and support packages to address whole family needs
- Adopting a challenge and support model of intervention
- Not imposing time limits on the intervention
- Exit planning and identifying ongoing support



# Troubled Families Division

- Total team of 36 Family Support Practitioners
- Supervised by 6 Seniors in teams
- 12 Intensive Family Focus Practitioners- families needing support from 4 or more agencies
- 24 Family Focus practitioners-families needing support from 2 or more agencies

# Referrals and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

- **Referrals to the Family Focus team - through the completion of a CAF**
- **Referrals for Intensive Family Focus - through completion of IFF Referral form**
- **CAF assessment completed by IFF Practitioner with the family**

# The CAF Process

- A Pre-Assessment Checklist (to help identify when to undertake a CAF)
- The Common Assessment Form
- Referral tool to access more targeted support
- An action plan with built in review process
- The appointment of a Lead Professional
- Team Around the Child/multi-agency meetings

# Who is the CAF for?

**CAF should be carried out when:**

- **There is concern about how well a child or young person is progressing**
- **Their needs are unclear, or broader than one service can address on its own**
- **A CAF would help identify the needs and provide a basis for getting other services involved.**

# Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST) to provide CAF support

- **CAF Duty Desk** (Mon-Fri, 9-5) to deal with all CAF queries (including informing practitioners whether a CAF already exists for a child). Also to log CAFs and triage CAFs as referrals)

Tel: 020 8359 4405

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[e-caf@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:e-caf@barnet.gov.uk) \* (if sending doc password  
*protected rather than via secure email*)

[www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)

# Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST)

The Team is made up of:

- 4x fte Multi-Agency Coordinators (MACs)
- 3 x CAF Social Workers and manager
- 3 x Safer Families Domestic Violence Workers

# Role of Multi-Agency Groups (MAGs)

- **Multi-Agency forum**
- **'trouble-shoot' stuck CAFs/pre-CAF and get CAF back on track**
- **chaired by senior managers from Children's Service**
- **representatives from all key stake-holders at a managerial level (inc. CAMHS, and Primary Health)**

# Safer Families DV Project



Safer Families line - 020 8359 7218



# New local CAF Form since

## Nov 2011

- Shorter and streamlined
- used as a referral as well as assessment tool
- parent/child indicators to chart distance travelled and show impact
- separate page for each child/family CAF

CAF used to refer to:

- Family Focus Team- since Nov 2011
- CAMHS Tier 3- since Feb 2012
- Early Years Vulnerable C/Ctre places- since April 2012
- Can also support referrals to other services

# Reminder - CAFs used as referral tool

- Must provide enough relevant information to assist a team to allocate and prioritise the case
- be able to help the new Team 'hit the ground running' with the case
- be of good quality- the CAF is a 'live' document to support a family.

# Increase in numbers of CAFs since 2008

