



Shetland IAF Newsletter

Xmas Edition 2008

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The Start of the Pilot Review

The IAF Pilot has been running in the South of Shetland for six months. Draft processes and documentation have been trialled by practitioners. Families and young people have experienced the IAF.

The next step is to run a full review of how this has worked.

The Review aims to see

-Whether the IAF assists with integrated working.

-Whether the processes and documentation are improving outcomes for children and young people.

The Review is taking place over the next few weeks. The aim is for completion by the end of December 2008.

The Review will cover:

-Responses, feedback and comments from parents who have been involved.

-The views of children and young people who have been involved.

-How professionals have used the IAF, and how it has impacted on their workload.

Based on the Review, changes will be made to improve the IAF processes and documentation. The

Project Board will decide where the next roll-out of IAF will take place. Please note that although the Review will be detailed and thorough, it will not be possible to identify anyone who has been involved. Strict confidentiality will be followed.



Happy Christmas AND a Prosperous New year



Your Views on IAF are Needed

If you have any views or comments on the IAF please contact the Project Manager 01595 7 4 4 4 8 9 / r o b . lamey@shetland.gov.uk

A Review Questionnaire has been circulated, but if you have not received it please contact Rob and ask for a copy.

Alternatively please contact Rob by phone or

email if you would like to contribute to the Review in any way.

For all contact details and addresses please see page 4.

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Where Next for the IAF?

Following on from the IAF Pilot in South Mainland, the IAF will be "rolled-out" to another part of Shetland.. By then, it is expected that some of the processes and documentation will have been improved as a result of the Review.

The IAF will continue in South Mainland. The next roll-out (wherever it is) will be preceded by a lot of careful planning. Agencies and staff will have to be well prepared. There will be comprehensive training to ensure people have the knowledge and skills needed to carry out IAF.

Where do **you** think the IAF should next be implemented in Shetland ?



Getting Stuck?

If you are involved with IAF and you are not sure what to do, here are some suggestions for you .

The IAF website and manual may be worth looking at for ideas and suggestions about the process (see page 4).

If this doesn't help, consider talking to a colleague or your line manager. They may be able to help

you solve your problem.

Or contact the Project Manager who may be able to help, or at least offer some suggestions. Rob can come and see you if the issue is a particularly complicated one.

If Rob is not available, Jane Cluness may be able to help, particularly if your query is about Consent or data sharing.

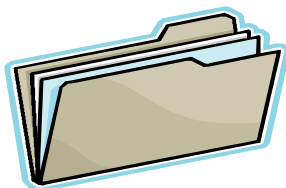


Project Assistant Appointed

Congratulations to Michael Rattray who been appointed as IAF Project Assistant. It is expected he will be taking up his duties in January. We will provide his contact details in the next edition of this Newsletter.

This is an exciting opportunity to develop a new post. It is clear that there will be lots to do following the Review and then helping with the roll-out to the next part of Shetland.

Although the post is an administrative one it looks as though Michael will have lots of opportunities to develop his skills and his knowledge of the IAF.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

Q If I do an IAF will I need to make a Child Protection Referral?

A The IAF aims to help children and young people have their concerns dealt with before they become entrenched and serious. So it's best to intervene early. However, whether there is an IAF or not, the protection of children comes first. Therefore, if you have Child Protection concerns you must make a Child Protection referral.

Q Shouldn't more social workers be involved?

A The IAF aims to meet the needs of children when you have a worry or

concern that you cannot resolve in your own agency. Most needs can be met without social workers being involved.

Q IAF meetings-how formal do they need to be

A The process should revolve around what is best for the child. Families and young people are more likely to feel comfortable, and more able to participate, in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Q I would like to start an IAF but I do not have the skills and

knowledge

A This may be all about confidence. Once you have had the training, and are working in an IAF area, you will be able to start. You already have existing skills and knowledge. IAF represents best practice, and much of this will be familiar to you.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

Q Who needs to go to an IAF meeting?

A Parents are always invited. Children and young people attend when appropriate. Beyond that the Lead Professional and any other key person. It should not be a question of inviting everyone who knows the child. Those invited should be able to offer a positive involvement. The aim is for the least possible intrusion, in the particular circumstances.

Q I would like to start an IAF, but I don't have the time

A Discuss this with your line manager. The child may be failing to reach their potential if services are not provided. Not dealing with this now may store up more serious problems for the future.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

Q When is the right time to start an IAF

A If you are thinking about it, in a sense you have already started. It is not always an easy decision to make. If you start to agonise over this, refer to the guidance on the website, or speak to a colleague. Remember the principles - are two or more agencies already involved? Does the child have needs that do

not appear to be met? Early intervention is the best way of dealing with problems.

Q How long should an IAF go on?

A As long as it's needed, but no longer.

Q I think the IAF is a great idea and I want to get involved now

A It's good to hear that people are

keen to use the IAF. At present, depending on where the child lives, you may need to be patient. The IAF pilot is in the South, and the IAF will be rolled out to another part of Shetland in the next few months. It sounds simple, but agencies and staff must be prepared, have the training etc. Meanwhile have a look at the website. Any comments you have help contribute to the development of the IAF.

IAF Contacts Page

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IAF Project Board

In Shetland, we have established an IAF Project Board. The Board consists of senior managers who are committed to implementing the IAF in Shetland.

- ☺ Dr. Sarah Taylor—NHS Shetland
- ☺ Chief Inspector Malcolm Bell—Northern Constabulary
- ☺ Catherine Hughson—Shetland Council of Social Service
- ☺ Hazel Sutherland—SIC Education & Social Care
- ☺ Helen Budge—SIC Schools Service
- ☺ Stephen Morgan—SIC Children's Services

IAF Website

<http://www.shetland.gov.uk/socialwork-health/iafpilot.asp>

This is the Shetland Islands Council IAF website. It is for everyone so please explore the website.

You will find Guidance and all the IAF documentation here.

It is all downloadable and printable too.

If you have any comments about what's available on the website please contact the Project Manager.

IAF Project Team

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