

Annex J – Sample Progress and Final reporting form

Leeds City Council/One Adoption, Adoption Support Centre of Excellence – Practice Improvement Fund Round 2 - GR1000350

A completed annex J must be provided with each quarterly claim covering the activities for that period.

SECTION 1: GRANTEE INFORMATION

Grant reference number	GR1000350	
Total Grant Funding	£ 500,000	
Project title	Leeds City Council/One Adoption, Adoption Support Centre of Excellence – Practice Improvement Fund Round 2	
Grantee organisation	Leeds City Council	
Person submitting this report	Suzanne Whiteley	
Contact number	07933500761	
Are you the primary contact?	Yes	
If No, what is your role in the project?		
Report type	Progress	
Actual period covered in this report	From January 2019 to March 2019	

SECTION 2: SUMMARY

Provide a summary of progress to date, approximately 200–500 words (cover the life of the project if this is your final report)

Assessment Framework and multi-agency CPD programme, for adoption practitioners/professionals

During the fourth quarter in 2018/19 the project team, alongside One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY) Service Delivery teams continued embedding the new assessment framework, which went live in February 2019, into social work practices and the case management system. The project team has been providing hands-on training to workers to enable them to use the new framework and tools to support assessments.

The project team has also been creating bespoke training to further support the workers involved in the assessment processes (across Adoption Services i.e. from recruitment and assessment through to adoption support). Training sessions will take place across the West Yorkshire area between April and June 2019, and in North and Humber between July and September 2019. Places have been offered to the Voluntary Adoption Alliance to ensure a unified approach from agencies from the Yorkshire and Humber area to Adoption Support Assessments. There are continuing discussions with agencies within South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire around the implementation of the assessment framework.

We have created online training focussed on 'Secure Base' for staff. This is being finalised with the testing phased having been completed this quarter with a view to going live within the first quarter for 2019/20.

The CoE has been building the standardised assessment training framework, this will be supported by online goal based outcomes training and has an intended go live date in Q1 of 2019/20.

Multi-disciplinary model of assessment and support

The Project Team has spent time analysing and evaluating different approaches to multi-disciplinary models. Utilising a SWOT analysis the Project Team and OAWY SLT have agreed to further explore the in-house delivery model as this offers more flexibility for delivery and it is likely to be the most sustainable option.

The project team continues to pilot the use of multidisciplinary consultations to explore the potential of this way of working and using the feedback to refine and modify the approach.

During the reporting period we have continued to train our staff to use a screening tool developed to identify children with underdeveloped sensory systems and to run sensory processing assessment and support courses.

We are continuing our work with the 5 virtual schools in the region. Our education specialist is providing a helpline for schools and adopted parents, and our web site will imminently provide an additional source of information for adopted parents. We continue to work to increase the awareness of attachment and trauma at West Yorkshire schools.

Working closely with our adoption community remains a priority. Adoption Development co-ordinators are working alongside the project team, and offer invaluable insight to evaluate new developments and for example to develop the One Adoption regional website to enable greater access to information and resources for families.

The Social Care sector specialist has undertaken an information session with Health Colleagues within the Paediatric services at the Leeds General Infirmary to inform their knowledge when working with children around Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma informed care.

SECTION 3: ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

Provide a summary report of progress and achievement to date, against the specific key performance indicators and objectives agreed to in the grant funding agreement.

Key Activity completed in this period:

Objective 1 – Standardised Adoption Support Assessment Framework

New Assessment Framework templates, tools and resources

The project team has continued to develop staff training to support the implementation of the new assessment framework. The project team aims to deliver training that will:

- Support workers to revise/ develop knowledge of the main tools and approaches
- Encourage better use of workers' use of one another to share knowledge and experience across the functions of OAWY
- Enable workers to know how to find out more about less commonly used tools and approaches when needed
- Enable workers to have a clear sense of how the parts of the process fit together and how these tools are likely to work in practice

The Assessment framework went live in February 2019 and has been embedded in the case management system. The good practice guidance issued across the region.

Dates have been set for the training delivery across West Yorkshire, these are:

30th April & 1st May – Leeds
8th & 9th May – Bradford
5th & 6th June – Huddersfield

In the North and Humber training will be delivered:

1st & 2nd July - York
11th & 12th September – York

Two further training sessions will be delivered in One Adoption North and Humber area (Hull) once room availability has been confirmed.

We are working closely with our colleagues in One Adoption North and Humber to plan the implementation of the framework across that region. A member of the OAN&H management team will attend the first OAWY training sessions and once this has been undertaken we will refine the training delivery to take account of local differences.

Objective 2. Development of a multi-disciplinary model

Development of a multi-disciplinary model of specialist assessment and therapeutic support to inform: a) pre-placement preparation and support and b) post-placement support for families at risk of disruption

The project team has focussed its work on the development of a multi-disciplinary model of specialist assessment and therapeutic support to inform

- a) pre-placement preparation and support
- b) post-placement support for families at risk of disruption

Utilising a SWOT analysis we have compared a CAMHS based adoption support team, a broader childhood adversity service, an in-house (RAA) multi-disciplinary model and a combined CAMHS/RAA model. Alongside the OAWY SLT it has been agreed to explore the in-house

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delivery model as it offers more flexibility for delivery and it is likely to be the most sustainable option.

The key elements of the SWOT that supported the selection of the in-house model include the challenges in engaging Health in prioritising working with adopted children through mainstream service provision, ability to enhance the skills and knowledge of OAWY staff and future proofing sustainable support provision to families.

The Centre of Excellence is piloting the use of two types of multidisciplinary consultation to explore the potential of this way of working, to refine the approach, and to gain feedback from workers who participate in a consultation.

Pilot 1 is open to staff involved at the stage of matching, introductions and transition of children with higher levels of complexity;

- Older children (who have started in reception at school)
- Children with more complex presentations (combined neurodevelopmental, developmental trauma, attachment, physical health issues)
- Prospective adopters with complex issues
- Placement of sibling groups
- Interagency adoptions

Using the Rethink Formulation framework, consultations aim to provide a reflective space for those involved to share and make sense of information, in order to develop a shared understanding of a child's situation. The consultants' stance is of collaboration with workers, bringing additional minds and other perspectives to the discussion. 9 consultation dates have been arranged across the West Yorkshire region to take place between April and August 2019. 4 Consultations have taken place between January and March 2019. The Centre of Excellence undertook an initial review following the implementation of staff consultations which led to revised guidance being provided to staff, this has enabled staff to attend subsequent consultations with more focussed analytical lens.

Pilot 2 is aimed at families who have sought adoption support. The consultations are targeted in respect of the skills of staff within the Centre of Excellence and the appropriate resources (e.g. psychology, social work, education/occupational therapy?) are deployed following a review of the referral form. The meetings are led by the adoption support delivery teams. There are 10 family consultations being delivered between April and July 2019 with further dates being set in the coming weeks.

Initial themes from 3 consultations are that the adoption support needs have been focussed on children's behaviour, school transitions and blocked care. The sessions have enabled the examination of what the child might be thinking by bringing the child into the room, enabling adopters to reframe their thinking about the child's behaviour; examining this as a symptom and identifying where other professional input may be required, e.g. health and education.

The consultations will be evaluated towards the end of Q2 2019/20. The aims and objectives of the consultations include increase the knowledge and skills of staff involved in assessment, planning and intervention, bring multi-agency/discipline to assessments and interventions, and provide further evidence to inform the multidisciplinary model.

Creating joint working models and care pathways in Education and Mental Health and independent service sector

Education Sector

Following an agreement with all Virtual Schools in West Yorkshire to unify ways of working, the CoE education specialist has been providing helpline support to schools and adopters in the

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region. Between January and March 2019, the helpline received 70 contacts from families, education providers and staff. Of these 56 were contacts from parents. The main reasons for contacts were information about pupil premium plus and special education needs of children.

The project team has continued to build Attachment & Trauma aware schools by promoting attachment awareness assessment tool and PAC-UK attachment and trauma training. In addition we delivered 12 training sessions to school staff in the West Yorkshire region during Q4, with appropriately 20 school staff members per training session.

The Education specialist from the CoE has developed an education focused Secure Base training tool, which has been shared with the Virtual School heads from West Yorkshire. We will trial the approach in Wakefield in the coming months.

The 'moving a school age children' protocol has been developed during Q4 and is being tested in Calderdale during Q1 2019/20.

We continue to plan for a regional strategy for education psychology for the previously looked after children and this work is ongoing.

Health Sector

- Shared resources with Leeds Community Health (CAMHS provider) to develop understanding and communication between Health and Social Care.
- Ongoing discussions with health partners across the region regarding developing their future in mind plans to meet the needs of adopted children

Independent providers – Develop a specific RAA commissioning framework, which supports the multi-agency adoption support

- Working closely within the region and the supportive procurement team (North Yorkshire) to:
 - Recruit more providers on the regional Approved Provider List
 - Implement our region wide work to implement outcome measures / better quality regime.

Objective 3 - Engagement with Adopters

Engage with Adopters across the Y&H region in the development of the project

- Adoption Development Co-ordinators working with project team to build satisfaction surveys (following therapeutic interventions)
- Adopters represented in both project reference group and board.

Develop and implement tools for gaining adopters, adopted children and young people's views

- Working closely with VAAs, Adopter Voice and Adoption Development Coordinators in the region to develop a tool to gain adopters, adopted children and young people's views.

Objective 4 – Development of a multi-agency continuing professional development programme

Basic Staff Training

- Please see Objective 1

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Objective 5. - Project Management

Set up project management and governance

Project Quality Assurance Plan – internal quality assurance protocol established and continuing:

- External (research based) project outcome quality plan agreed with UEA. It was agreed that UEA will populate project baseline information based on the previously conducted Adopter Survey. Due to the longer than anticipated training / implementation timescales, it was agreed that the project evaluation will now take place in 2020. This will allow the RAA to fully implement the improvements before evaluation takes place.
- UEA will engage with RAA & ASF evaluation projects to avoid duplication of effort.

Objective 6. - Key Outcomes

- Project Evaluation plan agreed with University of East Anglia. An **interim report will be issued by the end of October 2019** publishing the initial findings from the evaluation of adoptive parents, comparing the retrospective data from people using the service before the change with responses relating to the delivery of the new assessment. The final report will be published in October 2020, 12 months after the project closure to allow evaluation to capture the longer term impact of the project.

Evidence:



Progress on objectives/delivery plans:



Please provide details of any slippage in delivery plans and reasons for this if applicable:

The development of the Multidisciplinary assessment and support model is well underway, but is taking place later than originally planned. This was due to delays in engaging the appropriate staff. We will be able to deliver the design and testing elements of the model before September 2019, albeit the pilot phase being shorter than that in the original plan.

We have agreed with the senior leadership team in One Adoption West Yorkshire about how the Assessment Framework training plan is incorporated into the wider CPD plan for OAWY staff training and development and a completion date will be agreed through this process.

Is there anything else you would like to raise in this report?

We would like to again highlight the need to strengthen the importance of working together with health and education colleagues as highlight in the previous reports and discussion.

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NHS England have approached the West Yorkshire Integrated Care system to work closely with them to create a single commissioning approach for the full children and young people's mental health pathway in West Yorkshire. We have engaged in the initial discussions and there is an acknowledgement that the cohort of children adopted and looked after children are a particular group of children and young people where a west Yorkshire approach may be beneficial for families. A stakeholder meeting across partners in the region took place in February. This may offer an opportunity to provide an integrated approach to improve the quality of assessment and support for adoptive families.


Issues/challenges: What (if any) problems have you encountered and how have you dealt with, or how do you intend to deal with them?

It has been difficult to engage with the Educational Psychology services across West Yorkshire, this is due to the low number of educational psychologists in the region and their availability (partially due to their roles being a traded service), and we have a further meeting scheduled with regional educational psychology forum which has been re-established.

Engagement with the Health sector continues to be challenging. We have and continue to explore different regional NHS / Health collaborations in the mental health sector. We have achieved some traction, but feel that the current changes in the sector mean that our health colleagues are not in a position to fully engage with the project as yet. We will continue develop new working practices on a local level.

SECTION 4: DECLARATION

I, Suzanne Whiteley, Project Lead, declare that the information provided in this progress report is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any omission or false statement may result in the grant being terminated and previous payments recovered, or future grant applications refused.

Signed	
Date	28/03/2018