Overview

• About Us
• Known risk factors for abuse and neglect
• Potential role for adult services in addressing the known risk factors?
• Research findings – what adult services say
• Building Bridges Building Capacity Project

Known risk factors

• The key to preventing child abuse and neglect is addressing known risk factors
• The three most common characteristics of parents involved with child protection services are
  – Domestic violence
  – Drug and alcohol misuse
  – Mental health problems


Addressing known risk factors

• Parents involved in child protection are also frequently involved with adult services
• How can adult services support parents and their children who are clients of adult services?
• We asked professionals within adult services their views ...

Funding

Funded by FaHCSIA under the National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children
Research findings – what adult services say

• Three national studies investigating professionals within adult services views on working with families, including:
  – The role of adult services in working with families
  – Barriers to child and family inclusive practice
  – What would help practitioners in adult services

Gibson & Morphett, 2010; National Centre for Education and Training in Addiction (NCETA), 2010; Australian Infant, Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Association, 2004

Barriers to child and family inclusive practice

• Professionals within adult services identified several barriers and facilitators, which prevented or helped them to provide child and family inclusive practice
• Barriers fell into two broad areas
  – Lack of knowledge and skills
  – Capacity and structural barriers

Child and family inclusive practice – capacity and structural barriers

• Some examples of structural barriers/supports included:
  – Inter-sectoral relationships
  – Service capacity including access to childcare/respite care and resources for supporting children (financial/brokerage)
  – Legal issues – risk of harm thresholds and mandatory reporting
  – Families with most complex problems not engaged with services

Building Bridges Building Capacity – what we will do

• Workforce capacity building project implementing learning and development strategies to
  1. Enhance the capacity of adult focussed services to develop child and family inclusive practices
  2. Strengthen interagency collaboration between adult services and child and family services

Role of adult services

Figure 12: Level of involvement of child and parent sensitive practice in work role

Barriers to child and family inclusive practice – knowledge and skills

• Some examples of knowledge gaps/needs included:
  – Talking to children
  – Child development
  – Child assessment and monitoring
  – Identifying abuse and neglect
  – Impacts of trauma
  – Identifying parenting deficits and needs
  – Supporting and strengthening parenting skills
  – Managing/responding to abuse, trauma and related behaviours
Child and family inclusive practice

A practice framework for working with families in adult services

- Child and family inclusive practice in adult services is practice which is:
  - supportive of parents in their parenting role and attends to the needs of children; and
  - provided in the context of service provision where the primary role of the practitioner is to treat or respond to a presenting adult problem

- Does not replace child & family services

Guiding Principles – how we intend to work with you

- Consultative
- Collaborative
- Place Based - tailored to local needs
- Culturally sensitive
- Strengths-based
- Sustainable
- Evidence informed

Current Activities

- Developing relationships with sites and providers
- Establishing communication strategies
- Scoping training, drafting resources and competencies
- Benchmarking current practice
- Identifying evidence based practice

Sites and lead agencies

For more information

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