Good Practice Form

West Dunbartonshire Council

Good practice: The Community Planning Partnership's approach to improving outcomes for vulnerable children and families

Tags: Support to Children and Families

What was the identified issue?
The need to improve outcomes for children living in areas with the highest levels of deprivation was identified by Community Planning Partners as part of their Single Outcome Agreement. The aim is to support integrated working at a local level and reduce bureaucracy associated with multiple funding applications and single agency programmes. *Support to Children and Families* was developed as a single system of service delivery to better meet the needs of the most vulnerable children and families.

What have staff in services done together?
Support to Children and Families is delivered through integrated children's services involving health, education and social work working in partnership with a range of other services. Workers are linked to a vulnerable child as soon as difficulties are identified and provide intensive ongoing support to them and their family for as long as it is needed.

What are the benefits for children/young people and families?
The approach is closely monitored and can demonstrate positive impact on the lives of vulnerable children. There has been a substantial increase in the numbers of vulnerable parents benefiting from intensive individual support and participation in group work and parenting programmes. Parents have been helped to effectively overcome barriers to their children's healthy development and learning. In particular, this approach has improved the circumstances of children affected by parental substance misuse. This hard to reach group of parents are successfully included and their uptake of services both for themselves and their children has noticeably increased. Feedback from parents confirms how highly they value the help and support they have received.