



IFS+ Dissemination Event 18 June 2018

Summary Evaluation Feedback

IFS+ Placements Final Dissemination Event 18 June 2018 & Evaluation Feedback

The information below is a summary of the feedback received at the final dissemination event for IFS+ Placements held on 18 June 2018. The feedback was received in the form of a SWOT analysis and submitted at the end of the dissemination event. There were 47 delegates including speakers. SWOT Feedback was received from 15 delegates. We will use this feedback to continue to inform and develop the IFS+ Placement service. Below are the key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats extracted from the feedback cards.

Strengths of IFS+ Placements

- The research will support the development of IFS+
- The evolution of the project is child centred with young people at front and centre/young people are an equal partner in the research
- Child led consultation. Investment in support based on child's needs
- Staff development through a learning & development programme
- Practical implementation of trauma informed skills and understanding of this approach
- Innovative approach, the thought of children spending their lives in residential care is a bold decision and with this service we could be on our way to really helping children succeed
- Knowledge and experienced staff
- Intensive in-house support being provided to maintain placements
- Comprehensive overview of the context underpinning IFS+ journey
- Learning and development input very valuable with an emphasis on trauma informed care
- Good to hear the voice of the child
- Continue to keep young people at the heart of the plans
- Passion, knowledge and determination to succeed and deliver the best outcomes for children and young people
- Training, child centred, flexible, support, continuity of placement
- Splendid materials presented grounded in research and good practice approaches
- Excellent presentations, lots of innovation
- Great to see research used a good baseline
- Trauma skilled

Weaknesses of IFS+ Placements

- Too many people/professionals in the child's life
- Potential to divide within services if some are trained/part of IFS+ packages
- Greater emphasis on the staff perspective versus the carer perspective
- Finding carers/sustaining the support required
- Its new – therefore in many ways it's a leap of faith
- Risk of remembering not everything is ACEs linked, they are children/young people
- The long-term costs of poor care need to be balanced against perception this model is 'expensive'.

Opportunities for IFS+ Placements

- Matching the child and the carer
- To consider implications for children and young people services beyond care sector
- To develop a level of understanding of children and young people themselves – this will make it a more substantial and holistic approach as well as supporting self-regulation
- Its new and could be the next leading approach to child care and really create change and make a difference
- Training opportunities and working in partnership
- Intensive in-house support to families
- Making connections relating to practice and research
- Sharing the learning journey and improving outcomes for children
- All training in this programme should be delivered to ALL carers, staff, managers, Arran Villa and Garnock Lodge
- Research
- Pets
- Suitability of family home (rooms, design, location)
- Relationships/team working between foster carers and support staff
- Foster carers extended family and friends...integration to this including support staff
- The research showed the importance of continuing support for young people who may require this
- To develop the programme so less children are in residential care
- Early intervention is critical
- An amazing opportunity to participation a unique and hugely valuable project to help support vulnerable young people

Threats for IFS+ Placements

- Finance restrictions/budgets/cost of setting up service
- Division/isolation between teams/carers/staff
- Possible local authority understanding of need for ongoing investment
- It will be difficult with lots of issues and risks, learning needed
- Ensure proper development with training and fostering
- Integration into the mainstream community
- Logistics e.g. car big enough to transport children
- Being clear about staff roles and carers roles
- Financial outlay (rental of house, bigger car etc) is a concern from the carer perspective should placement breakdown happen
- Ensure ongoing support for carers or young people
- If the model really works, then others may want to copy it – although this would benefit other children

Conclusions and Action Points:

- We will continue to engage with the Scottish Government & ESF to develop a future funding application for the next phase (SIF Phase 3) of the innovation journey
- We will begin the process of identifying possible partners to work with in terms of scalability of developing this type model of service with alternative client groups (additional support needs and keeping sibling groups together)
- We will work with Strathclyde University to share the research and build on our learning and how this can shape future policy
- We have commenced the recruitment process as highlighted at the dissemination event on 18 June. The focus is on the recruitment of the necessary support staff with interviews commencing w/b 9th July followed by the relevant 3-week training programme for successful candidates (learning pathway)
- Foster Carers attending panel on 27 June for approval to take IFS+ placements and planning attendance to participate in the learning pathway
- Continue the ongoing engagement with local authorities to outline the service and offer IFS+ placements

Any further queries can be directed to:

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