

Developing services for families where a parent has a mental health problem

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The workshop began with a discussion about what is wanted about the workshop. The following items were mentioned by the delegates:

- Choice of solutions
- Bridging the gap between children and adults services
- Developing services for training
- Interventions
- Maintaining focus on a family
- Risk and accountability
- Professional engagement
- Service led-have to fit the box
- Who looks at the whole family
- Tenacity of services
- Looking at extended families

Delegates were asked to discuss with those seated near how families are viewed clinically and strategically by your organisation.

This was followed by the PowerPoint presentation, which is available to download.

Discussion followed about what would you like to be different in your services. Points raised were as follows:

- Time, resources, dedicated workers
- Who takes responsibility for making sure statutory agencies work together
- Difficulty of services talking to one another
- Role of voluntary sector, perhaps engaging at an early stage
- Risk should not be only entry route to support from social services
- Role of commissioning, e.g. adult role in commissioning support for children
- Different provision/experience of social services across the country
- Seeing families together
- Quality of parenting about behaviour
- Parent's child is often forgot as the practitioner just focuses on the person with the problem
- There is a culture of isolations even with assessing a single family
- Diagnostic categories (DSM-V) often skews access to necessary services