

Policy on Under 10's

- 1.1. Members will recall that we discussed the development of a policy for dealing with children aged under 10 years old who were involved in anti-social behaviour at the Safer Stockton Partnership meeting on the 18th December 2012. It was agreed that we would revise the policy taking into account the comments made by both colleagues from Children, Education and Social Care (CESC) and the District Commander for Stockton, Alastair Simpson.
- 1.2. The attached under 10's procedure has been developed to make parents of young people under 10 aware of their child's behaviour and try to offer support at a young age to prevent their behaviour escalating. This process will be dealt with in a sensitive way to ensure we are mindful of their understanding and referrals to support services will be made for vulnerable young people and their families. Following discussions with colleagues in CESC we have amended the procedure to link in with the CAF (Common Assessment Framework) process. This is an assessment tool used by professionals to refer a young person where there is concern when under the age of 19 years (or 24yrs and under with a special needs assessment) to social care, rather than First Contact. However the referrer must consider the level of harm, if significant risk First Contact referral must be made. The CAF process identifies a lead agency for working with the young person and ensures that information is shared between all those that have contact with that young person.
- 1.3. Where a child under 10 comes to the attention of the ASB team enquiries will be made as to whether an existing CAF is in place for the child or their family. If there is a CAF in place information from the ASB team will be fed into this process. Where it is confirmed that a CAF is not in place officers will adhere to the attached policy which states that a CAF will be submitted at the first interview stage.
- 1.4. The Community Safety team has also reviewed its general CAF arrangements and it has been agreed that in the case of all young people up to the age of 18 who are known to the ASB team confirmation of whether a CAF is in place will be sought. For those who are not currently subject to a CAF, ASB officers will initiate this process at the interview stage.
- 1.5. The recently appointed Family Support Officer within the Community Safety team will also take referrals to work with individuals and their families as part of the CAF process.
- 1.6. While it is anticipated that this policy would be used rarely it is recommended that the Partnership support its implementation and recognise how effective it could be in preventing a young person from being involved in further anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.
- 1.7. A full copy of the procedure can be found at Appendix 1.