

Education Futures Trust COMF Keywork

Purpose

This provision aims to support parents and family members in the most deprived wards in the borough to understand their roles and responsibilities in managing and combating the pandemic.

Who

We will target those families who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. We will work with identified families whose lives have been negatively disrupted and where their children's lives have been significantly affected.

We will work with schools to identify key families who have been most disrupted and where children are being put at risk because of anti-social behaviours and negative influencers. We know that in the most deprived neighbourhoods that the pandemic has resulted in a widening gap between the disadvantaged households, and those with greater understanding and the ability to recognise the need to take appropriate precautions (e.g. testing, vaccines, self-isolation). This project will work with the families that lack positive networks and influences, in order to rectify the gap.

Where

The project will target areas where local intelligence tells us that there are significant issues and gaps. We know that Hollington and North-East Hastings have been disproportionately affected, and that the pandemic created a vacuum that has been filled by county lines, local gangs and drug dealers.

How

Keyworkers will engage with whole families through the children. We know that the parents are often challenged by their children's behaviours, so this will enable the keyworker to build relationships. They will provide motivational sessions with children around behaviour in and out of school, and then work with parents to identify the issues within the family. Once identified, an action plan will be developed with the family that presents solutions and strategies to bring about change.

Keyworkers will share messages to encourage positive behaviours in the community, including understanding safety messages and the need for compliance with COVID safety measures.

Each intervention will involve working intensively with a family for 13 weeks. The keyworker will meet the child and the parents regularly. In the early days, the keyworker will aim for 'quick wins' that will encourage engagement.

Our children. Our families. Our community.

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Keyworkers will address practical problems (finance, housing etc.), and the action plan will also build support and links with other agencies such as the police, KnowKnives, Active Hastings.

Exit strategies will be embedded into the plan, and parents will be encouraged to engage with preventative and rehabilitation services, whilst children will be signposted and supported into positive activities.

Additional support

Education Futures Trust will 'bend' other services to support the families, and in particular the 'quick wins'. Offering food parcels, books and activity packs, that can be delivered to the doorstep, provide additional pretext for a welfare visit. Additionally, Education Futures Trust will deliver after school sports activities in the areas local to the families, through the Children in Need funded Sports4U programme.

Where there are safeguarding concerns keyworkers will work with the school to refer to SPOA to ensure that families receive the necessary support.

Outcomes

85% of families will receive information about preventative COVID measures/expectations.

The keyworker will engage 30 families and deliver intensive support.

70% of parents will engage with the keyworker, leading to the completion of an action plan.

75% of the children will engage with additional positive activities.

Schools will report improved behaviour for 70% of caseload.

60% of families will engage with other agencies, additional services or support.

Why Education Futures Trust?

Education Futures Trust works in the community to improve the life chances of children and young people in Hastings. We have a proven track record of working with local schools and the local community. We are proud of our reputation for delivering responsive, high quality delivery that meets targets and outcomes.

The charity has had a well-regarded keywork team in place since its inception in 2012. Our keyworkers are commissioned by schools, co-located with East Sussex County Council and also working in the community.

As an example of the ability to deliver, when Hastings Opportunity Area required 3 additional keyworkers during COVID we delivered the project for the required 3 months and exceeded all targets.

Carole Dixon
Chief Executive
Education Futures Trust
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