

The Key Point of Hope - Pre-proceedings and the Local Authority -Stockport

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“The pre-proceedings period should be resurrected as the key point of hope at which local authorities can work with (extended) families to develop long term, sustainable plans for the children of concern. Particularly in circumstances where the decision to go to Court would be crossing the thin red line, every effort should be made to avoid the truly burdensome and costly action of initiating court proceedings”.

Care proceedings in England: The Case for Clear Blue Water
Isabelle Trowler- The University of Sheffield 2018



Stockport Family

- Stockport Family – integrated children's services, health and local authority organised within localities
- based on whole family approaches underpinned by restorative practice
- Structure with focus on early permanence planning
- Low numbers of children in care
- But number of care proceedings increasing
- Stockport more likely to place in wider family
- Strong performance against 26 week timeframe



Vulnerable birth mothers and recurrent proceedings research (2017)-Centre for Child and Family Justice and University of Lancashire Karen Broadhurst and Clare Mason

- Some women in Stockport took a very active part in research focus groups
- Real spirit of co-production in development of the COMMA and CAMEO group established in 2016/7
- To address the needs identified by the data and research and using the learning from the local women – bringing research, practice and the voice of the “experts by experience” together to start a co-designed service.
- Emerging stories and harder evidence is very positive



PLO period

- Productive period – a point of hope
- Refocus on the plan and renewed efforts to engage with widest family and community
- Working with families using a strength-based, trauma informed approaches
- Honest and transparent approach
- Commissioning of assessments within this period



New Beginnings Greater Manchester

Making positive changes

At New Beginnings, helping people turn their lives around and keeping families together is at the forefront of what we do. This programme has been designed to enable families to reach their goals and fulfil their potential.

Our aim is to work holistically, and in collaboration with, families who are known to Children's Social Care for concerns relating to abuse and neglect.

We recognise that parents who find themselves in this situation have most likely experienced prolonged episodes of trauma, such as physical and emotional abuse, often within the home.

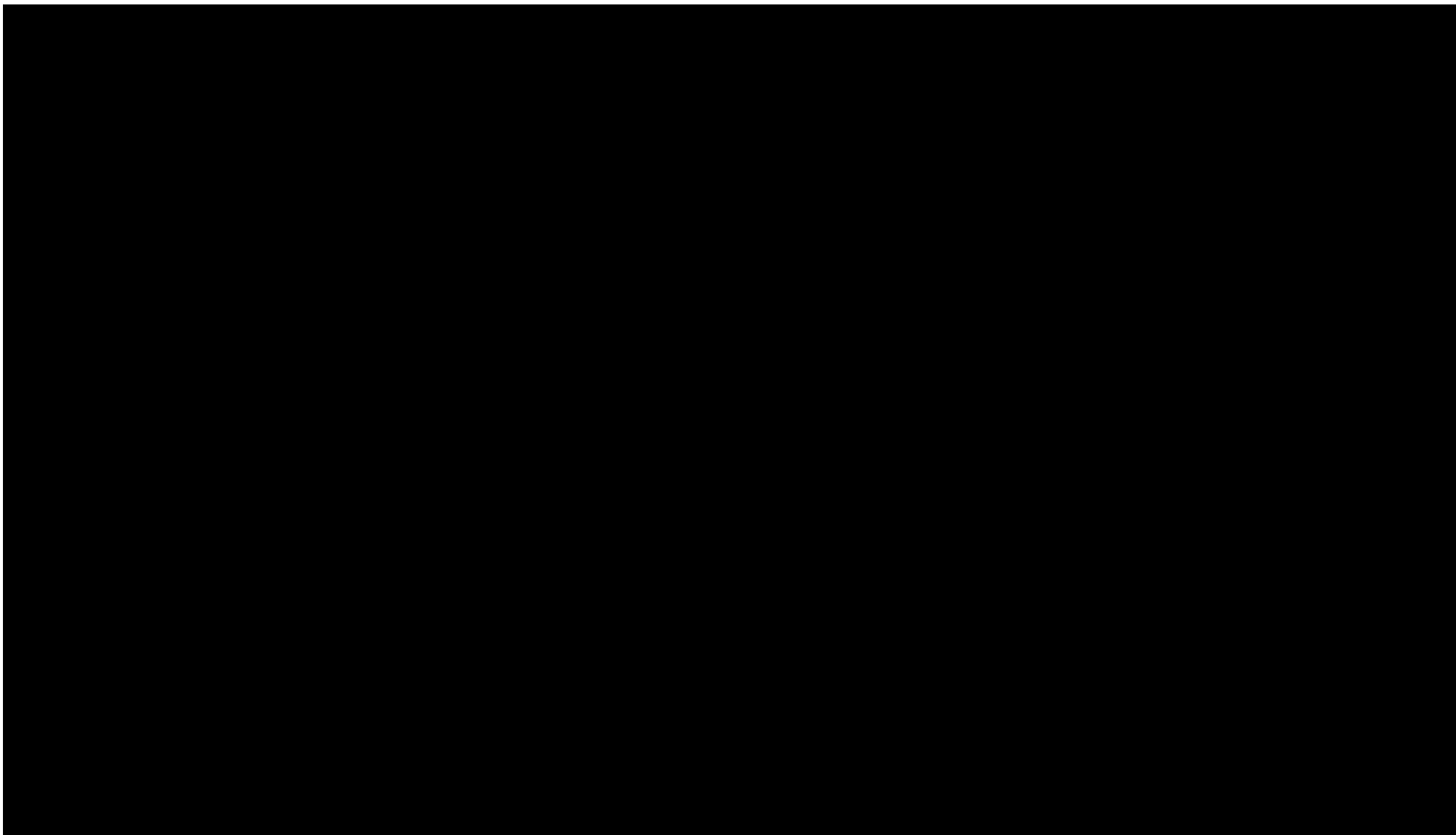
We believe that by working closely with families to help them to identify their needs, they can develop the skills required to become better parents and in return, teach other families how to do the same.



New Beginnings

- Partnership with Dr Jadwiga Leigh
- Flemish model “Stobbe”
- Trauma informed practice
- Recovery, repair, and growth
- Advisory role
- Co-production – responsive to needs
- Peer mentoring





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