

Option 2 Regional Therapist Network

Terms of Reference

Aim: To enhance key skills and confidence of practitioners involved in working intensively with families with complex needs (using the Option 2 model).

Objectives:

The practitioners' network will be supportive, reflective & solution-focussed.

It will enable practitioners to:

1. Explore the practice experience with peers involved in working intensively and therapeutically with families affected by parental substance misuse (primarily using the Option 2 model)
2. Learn from, and with, like-minded professionals through case-discussion, role-play, reflective group discussion, presentation, and facilitated exploration of client/family experiences
3. Share practice issues and discuss therapeutic tools and processes
4. Explore and learn from emerging research findings and organisational arrangements that have relevance to the therapeutic process
5. Take responsibility for 'self-directed learning' and professional development

Outcomes:

1. Maintain integrity of the Option 2 model
2. Develop and embed key therapeutic skills and practice
3. Identify common practice-based challenges and potential solutions
4. Identify emerging training needs and aspirations
5. Enhance personal and professional development of staff

Membership: The network will be open to staff directly involved in delivering the Option 2 model of therapeutic intervention to families within the North East. Membership is by invitation only and will be at the discretion of the network members. The maximum membership will be 12.

Facilitation & oversight: Elaine Smylie (Changing Trax) & John Scadden (Families First) will co-facilitate the network meetings and discussion. Joanna

Noon (Changing Trax) and Suzy Kitching (Families First) will oversee the arrangements and provide overall direction and legitimacy to the network.

Frequency: The network will meet quarterly starting November 2009. Network meetings will last for between 2-3 hours depending on the agenda.

Agendas & notes: The facilitators will:

- consult members about the agenda in advance of network meetings;
- agree and circulate a final agenda two weeks prior to each meeting;
- ensure that a brief record of key learning points and any agreed actions/decisions are written up and circulated to members and service managers within two weeks of meetings.

Venue: This will alternate between the north and south of the region

Funding: Each Option 2 service will contribute £20 p.a. towards the costs of refreshments.