

Mental Health in Families Team

In addition to the generic requirements of a consultant role, the following information provides the focus for this job.

The Mental Health in Families (MHIF) Team is an established team made up of workers with a wide breadth of combined experience across child and adult services. The focus of the team is on working across children's social care, early support and adult mental health to reduce the barriers between services, increase collaboration and enhance practice in order to assess and address the impact of parental mental health upon children. This role therefore demands developing and maintaining networks across these services. As part of your role with the team you will have specific links with some teams and these will be determined during the induction period.

Members of the team hold case discussions with case holding professionals from all three services to encourage a whole family approach and combine specialist knowledge in order for all involved to consider how the presentation of the parent affects the children in the family and how the family can best be supported in this context. MHIF consultants aim to identify opportunities for early intervention for families impacted by mental health in order to increase resilience and reduce a future need for professional involvement. This often includes advice on use of resources for case-holding workers to use with families specific to the impact of parental mental health.

In recognition of the specialist fields of both mental health and children's services, the team deliver training and education for professionals in those fields in order for enhanced understanding between professionals and across service barriers in order for a common language and shared approach to be achieved. This demands a commitment to developing a strong, confident knowledge base around mental health and children's services. During induction there is opportunity for independent learning with resources provided for this, in order for application of the principles of attachment, trauma informed practice and Adverse Childhood Experiences to case discussion and analysis. The team use a coaching approach and focus on the whole family.

The team is dynamic and responsive and members work flexibly to support professionals in order for them to support children and families living with mental health difficulties. This may include joint pieces of work with case holding professionals, attending or chairing meetings and delivering presentations. Whilst the team have developed an ethos of support for each other, there is also a demand for autonomous working for much of the time, which demands personal resilience and confidence.