

Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme (CLAS)

Jane Hargrave

**Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Financial
Capability Forum 15 July 2016**

Today we will cover

- ◆ 2016/17
- ◆ Looking ahead to 2017/18
- ◆ Exercises in groups
- ◆ Feedback and questions

CLAS 2016/17

- ◆ Contract with Charis Grants extended to 31 March 2017
- ◆ Budget 316k
 - * £75k to Charis for admin
 - * £235k for direct delivery
 - * £6k for research, procurement and training
- ◆ No contingency funding for 2016/17

2017/18 and beyond

- ◆ We must procure the contract for 2017/18
- ◆ Budget has reduced
- ◆ Adults Committee agreed we should investigate a different approach
- ◆ Looking at creative solutions
- ◆ Empowering people
- ◆ People get help that is proportionate to their issue
- ◆ Information & advice, as well as goods

Research

- ◆ Surveys of Authorised Agents; clients, and the public
- ◆ Arranging meetings with district councils; Children's Centres; Together for Families; Public Health
- ◆ What are other LAs doing? (Peterborough, Hants, Glos)

Principles

THINK FAMILY

- ◆ One Lead Professional
- ◆ One thorough family assessment
- ◆ One overarching family support plan
- ◆ A team around the family
- ◆ Limiting transfers families experience through our services
- ◆ Commitment to putting the family's needs at the centre and overcoming professional difference.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

- ◆ Enable people to live independently
- ◆ Support people in a way that works for them
- ◆ Support the development of strong, connected communities
- ◆ Recognise the strengths of individuals, families and communities and build upon these
- ◆ Work in partnership to achieve this.

Case studies

Case study 1: Ms LS is a single parent living in a small rural village in South Cambridgeshire. She has no transport, no savings and no cash. She has been referred to you by her Housing Association as she has rent arrears due to non-dependant deductions leading to her not being on full Housing Benefit.

Ms LS suffers from severe depression and anxiety and is too ill to work. She has just started to receive Jobseekers Allowance, but as she has no cash she is unable to afford the bus fare to sign on in 2 days time.

Her oldest son (age 21) is autistic and is receives Employment and Support Allowance (initial rate). He had received help in the past to apply for ESA, but this support is no longer around. Her younger son (age 18) has a personality disorder and agoraphobia, has left school, and is not claiming any benefits at all. Her daughter (16) goes to 6th Form College and is very shy. Ms LS receives Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit for her.

They are on a pre-payment electricity meter and have no credit at all and no money to top it up. They will be sitting in the dark tonight. Their cooker and fridge/freezer are broken, and they have no money at all to replace them. They have virtually no food in the house. She has no input from any other services and feels helpless and doesn't know what to do.

Case study 2: Mrs J (35) is the victim of domestic violence. She lives in Cambridge Women's Aid Refuge with her two children aged 2 and 3. She receives Income Support and is in receipt of Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit. She suffers with depression and anxiety. She has been there for 6 months and has now been offered a 2 bedroom social housing property in Cambridge. She has accepted this house and her tenancy start date is in 9 days.

As she fled her marital home (and cannot return) she only has clothing for herself and the children, a few toys and a kettle and microwave that she has bought while living in the Refuge. She is desperate to move into the new property but has been told that unless she can sleep in the property she will not receive Housing Benefit to pay the rent.

Feedback and questions

What next?

- ◆ CLAS Task and Finish Group meets on 2 August
- ◆ Paper to Adults Committee in September with findings from research and recommendations
- ◆ Procurement process to start end September
- ◆ New provision starting 1 April 2017

Contact me

Jane Hargrave

Jane.hargrave@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

01480 373 752