



## Right Balance for Families



### A Children's Social Care Innovation Fund Project

Right Balance for Families is a new approach to social work for children aged 10 to 13 who are already receiving support from social care. The work is being undertaken by Camden Council social workers in partnership with the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, Catch22 and Camden Learning and is funded through the Department for Education Innovation Fund. The government funding makes it possible for us to provide the same level of multi-agency support for this group of children as that currently in place for children in care.

#### Why are we targeting 10 to 13-year-olds?

- To test a preventative model to stop problems escalating in the teenage years or identify a need for care earlier to improve long-term outcomes for these children.
- There is a high rate of repeat referrals to social work for 10 to 13-year-old children in need – approximately three times the average across the service, which indicates missed opportunities for this group.
- The transition from primary to secondary school is an important time, and can be difficult for some children, so additional support may be beneficial.
- Long-term neglect is recognised as being harmful for children and the Right Balance approach is designed to mitigate this.
- Opportunity for early intervention to prevent harm during the significant changes that happen to children in adolescence.

# The Right Balance approach ...

Family Group Conference Coordinator works with the family to map their network



A Right Balance family group conference is held where the family set their own goals and create a family led plan



A reflective systemic professionals' discussion is held and they respond to the family led plan with the aim of best fulfilling the goals of the family and young person



Social worker shares the response to the family plan with the family and helps to coordinate its delivery



Review family group conference is held to assess progress against the family led plan

**Right Balance for Families** puts children and families' wishes at the heart of the plan for them, ensuring that we are building from their existing networks and relationships to help them develop more resilience.



## The Right Balance family group conference

- The family set their own goals, which are the agenda for the family group conference.
- They map their own network and select the person who is the trusted and valued person for them. The trusted and valued person will have the most contact with the family.
- The family's goals and assessment of their own strengths and concerns are discussed in depth at the family group conference
- The family group conference creates a family-led plan, which will underpin all the work with the family going forward. The professional network will add their contributions to supporting the family led plan later on.