

## Case Study

### Think Family

with Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council



[www.ica-uk.org.uk](http://www.ica-uk.org.uk)

#### Context

'Think Family' is a priority within the National Youth Crime Action Plan. The initiative looks at how to support families at risk from the use of holistic approaches.

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council (TMBC) wanted to develop a multi-agency approach towards 'Think Family' and asked ICA:UK to run a series of workshops to develop an awareness of 'Think Family' amongst professionals and map existing provisions to understand where future work needed to take place.



The people wanted to build on what was already working well to learn



more about different ways of working and to share best practice.

#### Process

Our team designed and delivered nine sessions using ICA's participatory methods to engage professional who work with families, children, young people and communities in Trafford.

We did a context section using data from National Government and a speaker from the council. Using this information, people worked in small groups to identify the key messages of Think Family. We then began the mapping exercise of services within the borough using creative tools. This was followed by a ToP

Consensus Workshop to identify the key priorities for participants. The workshops ended with a creative forward planning tool to look at what further resources and training were needed in order to be able to meet the priorities of Think Family.

By talking directly those who work on the front line of delivery with families at risk, ICA:UK was able to research where the key areas of current achievement were taking place, and where the borough has furthest to travel.



### **Outcomes & impact**

The participants of the 'Think Family' workshops have a shared commitment to the values of the programme. They also have a shared vision with key priorities, such as coordinating, developing and updating electronic databases so information can be shared and used to benefit families and help people signpost to appropriate services.



In the words of the participants, this is what they gained from participating in the workshops;

*'Greater understanding of issues and possibilities for joint work'*

*'A more effective way of working with clear identifiable outcomes'*

*'The facilitation has been really good and used innovative ways of getting us to explore the agenda'*

*'Imaginative ways of addressing old tasks, skilled planned sessions, relevant tasks-Hire them!'*

*'I have been to events before when 2 or 3 people have hogged the afternoon but today I felt like everyone could say what they want to say and not be inhibited to do so.'*

The Government have removed the Think Family programme funding, however Trafford continues to use the Think Family consultation for its early intervention reporting. The 'TAMHS' and 'FIP' parts of the project are still running well.

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