

We're working with a Child in Need....what does 'good' look like?

The following tips come from good practice highlighted through GSCB Multi Agency Audit and Focus Group Discussion during 2014.

- ✓ Have we evidenced that the **right agencies** are involved in working out the child's needs?
- ✓ Have we evidenced the **child's experience, wishes and feelings**?
- ✓ Have we considered the needs of and risks to any **siblings**?
- ✓ Has the **child** been involved in drawing up the plan?
- ✓ Are the right range of **partners** involved in the planning? Including the Voluntary and Community Sector, relevant to the child's assessed need
- ✓ Have we clearly considered **Cultural and diversity** needs?
- ✓ If we've asked for a service as part of the Plan, have **we been clear about what and why**?

Wow, that's a good Child in Need Plan! It...

...describes the identified needs of both child and family

...has clear, outcome focused objectives for that child

...shows how an appropriate mix of local services are being put in the plan, tailored to individual need, with agreement on who is accountable at each stage

...sets out timescales with specific dates and milestones

...is very clear about the risks for the child if need is not met, and the contingency

... Is very clear about dates when the Plan will be reviewed and progress checked

- ✓ Has the Plan been **communicated** to everybody involved?
- ✓ Do all professionals **check** how they and the child are doing and **keep checking in** with each other?
- ✓ Are **joint visits planned when needed?** - e.g. Social Worker and Health Visitor, Housing officer
- ✓ Are Child in Need meetings **regular and well attended?** - this really makes a difference
- ✓ Is there evidence of **reviewing the effectiveness** of the Plan, focusing on child outcomes?
- ✓ **Is there appropriate challenge** if better outcomes are not secured? This is effective!