

after



adoption

**An integrated partnership model  
of adoption support**

# After Adoption



- 11 years experience family finding for children with complex needs.
- 21 years experience developing adoption support services to all parties in adoption across England and Wales.

# Our Concerns



- 1 in 5 adoptive placements fail without appropriate support.
- Trend analysis of referrals in 2003/04 showed increase in need for support from adoptive families.
- 60% of LAC have suffered abuse and neglect.
- Diminished life chances of children remaining in LAC or returning to care after disruption.

# Targetted response to need



- Development of SafeBase parenting programme in 2004
- Pilot programme support by DFES funding 'Strengthen Families'
- Independent evaluation indicated increased parent sensitivity to parenting.
- Immediate reduction in referral rates for ongoing support.

- Assessment
- 4 day Training Programme
- Ongoing Support Groups
- Raises parental awareness to the impact of early trauma, attachment issues and related behaviours

# Delivery impact to date



- 316 children referred
- Majority referred between 2–5 years after placement
- On referral 40% were at the point of disruption
- 32% had previous CAHMS involvement

# Proven results

- 310 children's placements sustained
- Parents changed responses to children
- Greater family harmony and closer relationships



# Challenge: How to increase public benefit



## Response:

- Licensing intellectual property to other agencies
  - development in Scotland with support of Scottish Government
  - discussions with other VAA's/LA's partnerships/commissioning
  - discussions in other nations – Northern Ireland



# Innovation

- Development of 3 sector partnerships between private, third sector and public sector.
- Shared vision to make SafeBase available to all adoptive parents by 2016.
- £1m private sector funding to support plan



# Innovation to action



- Strategic development of LA partnerships with 50% matched funding to public purse for 3 years.
- Matched funding for individual adopters unable to access support they need – removal of postcode letters.
- Licensing agreements with other VAA's increase public benefit. Pay resources.
- After Adoption provides SafeBase to all families placed via the agency – funded by post adoption element of interagency fee

# Matched Funding - Outcomes



LA's must agree to strategic improvements

- Increased number of adopters
- Increase stability for children
- Improve family relationships
- Raise average age of adopted children
- Increase sibling placements
- Reduce need for continuous expensive interventions

# Monitoring & Evaluation



- Follow up evaluation of initial SafeBase graduates on longevity and quality of placement.
- LA's to participate in monitoring of impact on disruption rates, remit and reduction in LAC population.

# Social Impact



- SafeBase costs 10% less than keeping a child in care for 1 year.
- A year on year saving of up to £50k for a child in care.
- Longevity of placement reduces NEET figures for children.
- £1.5m saving to public purse for every 20 children placed and sustained in placement.

# Agreements for long term benefit



- LA disruption rates 20%
- VAA standard disruption rates 6%
- SafeBase success rate under 2%

- Deliverable outcomes leads to sustainable funding
- Evidence based performance
  - longevity of placement
  - decreased dependence on services
  - vulnerable children having happy experiences of adoption.
- Social impact – quantifiable figures
- Attract interest from future social investors.

# Local Authorities Speaking



“Since I referred our family to your SafeBase programme, she has turned a corner, she parents in a different way and has so much more confidence”.

**Graham Walsh, Acting Adoption Manager, Blackburn Social Services.**

“We have received loads of positive feedback from adopters about your SafeBase programme. We believe that children are still in placements that may otherwise have broken down”.

**Mandy Williams, Adoption Manager, Blackpool Social Services.**



# Parents Testimonials



“SafeBase changed the way I relate to my daughter. I look at her behaviour in a different way. The course has given me a different attitude rather than a toolkit”.

“I have three adopted children and my eldest child who is 14 is now in foster care. I truly believe that if I had attended SafeBase years ago, he would be at home with us now”.

“Whilst my interaction with our adopted son is better, my relationship with our other son (a birth child) has also improved”.

# Parent Testimonials



“SafeBase and the After Adoption team have taught me that adoption is a journey throughout life. We needed the SafeBase course to get through the ‘crisis’ we had – but it gave us more than that – it made us better parents (better at listening), more empathetic. It gave us a new language in which to communicate. It changed us for good and there aren’t many course that do that for you’.