STRAUD 3 SERVICE DELIVERY

Information from interviews in centres and observations
MULTI-AGENCY WORKING AND INTEGRATION

Ethos in practice – managers placed importance on:
- Talking informally to staff such as health visitors
- Workers willing to ring up other professionals on behalf of parents
- Outreach workers visiting families at home

Tensions between different professional cultures, e.g.
- Balance between open access and targeting
- Balance between adult focused and child focused activities
- Willingness to share data
Evidence Based Practice: Parenting

Of Allen’s list (2011) over half were implemented in some form within the sample.

- Most commonly reported were Incredible Years, Triple P, and Family Nurse Partnerships.

Well-evidenced programmes were more often classified as ‘followed in full’ by staff, while other named programmes, not so well evidenced, were less likely to be followed in full (Baby Massage, PEEPS, and Family Links).
Trade-off between reach and cost for named programmes

- The three ‘well-evidenced programmes’ scored more favourably on *Fidelity to the Programme* compared to ‘other’ programmes. (IY, Triple P, FNP)

- ‘Well-evidenced programmes’ more likely to be run through a mix of children’s centre staff and other organisations; other programmes more likely to be run by centre staff

‘Well-evidenced programmes’ reached fewer users (22-24 families for IY) per year than did the ‘other programmes’ (104 for PEEP per year)
Changes in structural configurations

standalone centres were becoming satellite sites (Example 1), or were in transition towards cluster configurations (Example 2).

Hub-and-spoke models were increasing
Reflections on an Evolving Service

- Centres were moving towards the DfE revised core purpose.

- Managers’ apprehensions about the future:
  - ‘removal of middle management’ positions in favour of a higher managerial control,
  - reduced centre hours or centre sessions, e.g. stay and play
  - reduced partnership working, e.g. employment
  - possible loss of current senior staff /Qualified Teachers, who might be at risk of relocation or redundancy.

- Multi-agency collaboration survives but under threat if partner agencies withdraw further due to fresh cuts to staff numbers and/or hours.