



# Hope for Children and Families

The Sheffield pilot



# Fieldwork Services in Sheffield - overview

- Debbie Mercer, Assistant Director
- Christine Bennett, PCFSW
- Areas: North, East, West, each with 3 x duty and assessment teams and 3 long term teams
- Permanence and Throughcare: 2 LAC teams, 2 leaving care teams and a duty team
- Children with Disabilities: 4 teams
- Joint Investigation Team
- Hospitals Team

# Selection for pilot...

- 2 teams working with CIN/CP/Care Proceedings
- Well established teams
- Mixed skills and knowledge (ASYE, level 2)
- Located in different areas of city
- Clinical support offered from our MST manager

# Initial thoughts...

- Very positive feedback from staff about the training
- Staff prompted to think of themselves as 'interveners'
- Is the product overly complex for its purpose?
- Useful for staff to bring individual case to training sessions
- Planning needs to be promoted

# Barriers - organisational

- Period of change in Sheffield
- Team manager moved on
- Staff have struggled putting tools into practice:
  - New ways of planning and preparing require social workers to 'relinquish' their own previous tools
  - New tools present challenge to current practice and require familiarisation time
  - Capacity issues/competing demands

# Barriers - tools

- Timescale of evaluation
- Some initial teething problems
- Web link not working and difficult to use
- Tool kits overwhelming in size and volume
- Large volume of guidance
- Some difficulty in navigation

# Suggestions...

- Tools need to be presented in bite sized chunks
- Needs good indexing
- Needs to be an incentive for organisations to invest fully in 'untested tools'
- Role of training and development in understanding and promoting?