

**Safeguarding Children and Young People**

**Who’s Parents Have Mental Health Needs**

In 2010 The Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) launched new interagency guidance on working with the children of parents who are known to mental health services. This should be used by all public, private and voluntary sector agencies.

We know that:

* Around 25% of adults will have a period of significant mental ill health during their lifetime.
* Between 25% and 50 % of these people will be parents at the time of their illness.
* Children of parents with Mental Illness have an increased rate of mental health problems and an increased risk of adverse effects on development. The mental health of children is a strong predictor of their mental health in adulthood. (SCIE 2009)

**Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family**

The previous Government`s “Think Family” agenda recognized and promoted the importance of a whole family approach and the guidance for Safeguarding children in these families embraces the principles from this of

* **No Wrong Door** – contact with any service offers and open door into a system of joined up support. Co-ordination between adult and child services is key.
* **Looking at the whole family** – services working with both adults and children should take into account the family circumstances and responsibilities.
* **Providing support tailored to need** – working with the families to agree a package of support best suited to them.
* **Building on family strengths** – working in partnership with families to recognize and promote resilience and helping them to build their capabilities.

SOUND FAMILIAR???????

Home-Start is mentioned in the Interagency Guidance for safeguarding children with parents with mental health needs.