

Unmet Need Issues and Positive Steps

Issues
Work with <i>whole</i> family not just the one presenting individual
The needs of one person are actually the needs of the whole family unit
There remains limited trust towards practitioners who may “take my children away”
Universal services are essential, they are “early intervention” and their impact goes unrecognised because they succeed
Community empowerment and community building is essential to give communities a social and supportive role between the vulnerable and between generations
There is systematic under provision and under identification of need in rural areas
Engagement and representation of communities and groups identified as having needs may suffer from self appointed spokespeople and the extrovert. We should seek out the quiet and voiceless
Schools are seen as surrogate families, taking on a role and status they are unsuited for
Statutory services still work in silos to manage need. In reality, often needs are bundled together and are more syndromic and require a holistic approach
The NHS and Central and Local government keep going through continuous change leading to short termism and significant losses of effectiveness. There is a high opportunity cost to managing the change processes alone.
A “Why bother?” culture is becoming the norm in the UK. An attitude of resignation and acceptance that things cannot improve
The underlying source of unhappiness which manifests itself in so many ways can be traced back to the culture and value system that is slowly becoming entrenched, of intergenerational separation, de prioritisation of children, glorification of selfishness and bad behaviour etc.

Positive steps towards meeting unmet need
Counter short termism, by combining short term interventions into an integrated bundle of a holistic approach (e.g. CAF)
Build on what we have, take the positives and have a forward looking approach with needs, do not over focus on the negative
Positively engage to build communities and actively seeks out the voiceless and overlooked

18th October CME Unmet Need Conference

Be prepared to challenge other professionals and institutions if the answers are not in the service users interest
Consistently challenge bogus consultation made to define services and interventions when the decisions have actually already been made
Consistently and systematically engage with other professionals and institutions, by for example, responding to all consultations and requests for input
Counter all negative images and examples of “Broken Britain” and “Feral underclass” but promoting a more positive image. Begin to turn the culture towards more positive values and a more optimistic “we do bother” point of view
Peer examples (mentors) and modelling behaviour should be emphasised
Actively seek to engage with communities and bring them together, for example think and act to counter loneliness across the generations.
In many cases extended families area good and supportive thing and should be strengthened
To tackle unhappiness and improve the culture and value system that creates materialism, misery and superficiality will take a long time and will be hard work. Accept this and be prepared for the long haul