

Autumn 06

Newsletter

Issue 9

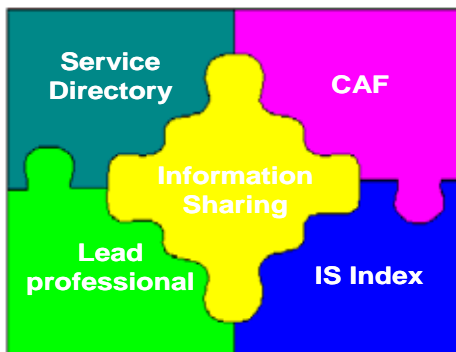


[www.irtbridges.org.uk](http://www.irtbridges.org.uk)



Updates!!!

## What is Bridges?



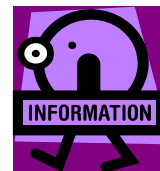
## E-CAF (Electronic Common Assessment Framework)

Experience shows that an e-CAF is crucial if practitioners are not going to become overwhelmed with paper.

The e-CAF system will allow practitioners to;

- Find out if a CAF already exists for a child or young person
- Find out if there is, and who is the Lead Professional for a child or young person
- Find out who is involved with the CAF
- Add to the assessment and action plan

Plans for an e-CAF begin with the appointment of a Project Manager and discussions with suppliers.



## Information Sharing (IS) Index

In December 05 the government said that it would, under Section 12 of the Children Act 04, develop a national Information Sharing (IS) index. This will be a telephone directory around a child to help workers and others that are providing services for a particular child.

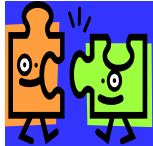
The national IS Index will be a tool to facilitate better communications between service groups and organisations. All children's services practitioners will be able to use the system, including head teachers, social workers, NHS staff, Connexions staff and others.

The timescales for the implementation project are;

- **Planning** Apr 06 - Sept 06
- **Pre-implementation** Oct 06 - July 07
- **Implementation** Late 07 - July 08
- **Rollout Sept** Late 07 - March 09

Conversations with agencies will define how the index should work. Standards and controls to help deliver the national project are also being developed.

The plan is to make the system generally available to Children Service practitioners across England by the end of 2008.



## Common Assessment & Lead Professional County & Rutland

Multi-agency forum meetings are now working in Coalville, Oakham and North Charnwood areas. They offer an opportunity for practitioners in those areas to co-ordinate multi-service provision to better meet a child's needs. A child can only be presented to a meeting if:

- Their needs are presented on a CAF
- Informal information sharing and multi-agency arrangements have not reduced the needs
- When services need to be 'un-jammed' to become needs rather than service led
- They do not have an allocated social worker or youth offending key worker

The consent and involvement of the child and/or family is crucial and their views and agreement is needed before progress can be made. A lead professional is identified if the child has 2 or more specialist agencies involved.

**60 CAF's have been completed  
21 Lead Professionals identified**

### News!!

Coalville have extended their multi-agency forum to include 0-18yrs

The areas using CAF are informing the integrated working plans for the Children and Young Peoples Services.

These three areas will continue to work on CAF and LP until April 2007 when the CAF will be rolled out across Leicestershire & Rutland.

## Focus on the City CAF Development

Since the previous newsletter Bridges, Leicester City Council and other partners have -

- Established a Project Board with representation from various services to oversee the implementation of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Lead Professional (LP) across the city.
- Worked with a group of managers, practitioners and other stakeholders to plan and prepare for the Leicester Integrated Service Trial (LIST) in the New Parks area see <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/list> (This includes developing the model which enables Children and Young People with additional needs to be identified and effectively supported earlier)
- Continued to support the CAF in New Parks SureStart
- Planned the implementation of CAF/LP across Leicester
- Consulted others and revised the CAF form. 10,000 copies of the form have been printed in preparation for the integrated way of working co-ordinated by the Lead Professional.
- Developed systems which will co-ordinate CAF operation
- Explored the information system needs for practitioners using the CAF
- Worked with Children's Workforce Training Staff to develop materials to support the implementation of the CAF/LP across the City.

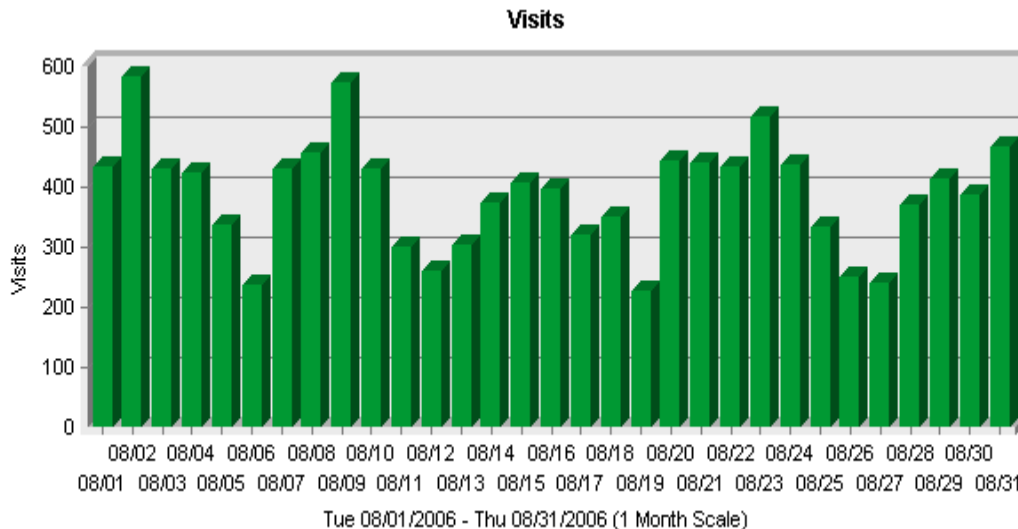


## Service Directory Progress

Visits in  
August 12059!

More people using  
the directory than  
ever!!

Visits per day  
now 389



## Would you like a demo?

We have attended a series of children and young people's events over the summer months where we've presented the Bridges Service Directory live.

Presentations were positively received with recognition that the service directory is a support tool for their jobs.

If you or your Team would like a demonstration or to find out more about the Directory, please contact Tara Agravat on 0116 265 8730 or mail [tagravat@leics.gov.uk](mailto:tagravat@leics.gov.uk)

If you would like Tara to visit your organisation to give you a demo please call her on 0116 2658730.

## Service Directory Developments

Good progress is currently being made with including Lincolnshire services into the Bridges Directory. There are approximately 140 Lincolnshire services on the Directory and this is increasing.

- There is a new facility on the Directory allowing you to search for services by postcode or geographical location
- Owing to the success of the download area we are adding further content for our partner organisations
- The maintenance of service agencies information on the Service Directory is ongoing



We are always looking to develop and improve the Directory. If you've got any ideas or comments, please contact the Bridges Team by email ([irt@leics.gov.uk](mailto:irt@leics.gov.uk)) or tel: 0116 2658727

[www.irtbridges.org.uk](http://www.irtbridges.org.uk)



16 Leicester  
Road  
Blaby  
Leicestershire  
LE8 4GR

TEL:

0116 2658727

EMAIL:

[irt@leics.gov.uk](mailto:irt@leics.gov.uk)

If you require further  
copies, larger print,  
braille, audio tape format  
or an alternative  
language call  
0116 2658727

## The Bridges Team



Peter Chester  
Programme  
Manager

James Lynch  
Project  
Manager (City)

Sandra Woodward  
Project Manager  
(County & Rutland)

Tara Agravat  
Database  
Co-ordinator

Lucy Moore  
Administrator

Graham Walker  
Clerical Assistant

Kate Knowles  
Administrator



Jeff O'Connell

### Welcome to two new members !

Ashok Popat and Jeff O'Connell are new members to the Bridges team. They will be working on the National Information Sharing (IS) Index projects. Ashok will manage the project for the City and Health and Jeff will manage the project for County, Rutland and Connexions.



Ashok Popat

## The Bridges Team- 0116 2658727

**Peter Chester**

[pchester@leics.gov.uk](mailto:pchester@leics.gov.uk)

**Lucy Moore**

[lmoore@leics.gov.uk](mailto:lmoore@leics.gov.uk)

**Sandra Woodward**

[scwoodward@leics.gov.uk](mailto:scwoodward@leics.gov.uk)

**James Lynch**

[jlynch@leics.gov.uk](mailto:jlynch@leics.gov.uk) / [james.lynch@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:james.lynch@leicester.gov.uk)

**Jeff O'Connell**

[joconnell@leics.gov.uk](mailto:joconnell@leics.gov.uk)

**Tara Agravat**

[tagravat@leics.gov.uk](mailto:tagravat@leics.gov.uk)

**Graham Walker**

[gwalker@leics.gov.uk](mailto:gwalker@leics.gov.uk)

**Kate Knowles**

[kknowles@leics.gov.uk](mailto:kknowles@leics.gov.uk)

**Ashok Popat**

[apopat@leics.gov.uk](mailto:apopat@leics.gov.uk)