

Participation in child protection reviews

An evaluation of the use of Viewpoint Interactive (A-CASI software) as a consultation tool within the child protection process in a large metropolitan authority in the UK

Sample

46 children and young people who had used Viewpoint Interactive questionnaires for their child protection review provided feedback together with social workers and managers who had experience of Viewpoint Interactive and the use of Viewpoint reports generated during the period of the pilot

Findings

Children and young people who participated in the study reported the use of Viewpoint Interactive a positive experience.

- All of the respondents said that it was either good or okay.
- 64% found it easy to use and a further 32% said that it was okay to use.
- 77% said that they would like to use Viewpoint Interactive again in the future.

Social work practitioners and managers found Viewpoint to be a valuable tool.

- Viewpoint Interactive assisted social workers with preparation for child protection meetings and reviews.
- 67% of social workers who participated either agreed or strongly agreed that the Viewpoint report, (which detailed the child or young person's interview responses) helped them prepare for the meeting
- 58% either agreed or strongly agreed that 'it helped them prepare their own report for the meeting.

The individual report was a valuable tool to identify **safeguarding issues**:

- 83% of the social workers who responded said that they checked the report for such issues.

The perception was that the Viewpoint report was particularly helpful when engaging with young people prior to meetings. Social workers and team leaders discussed the reports prior to meetings or reviews, and also discussed the report with the chair prior to the meeting.

The impact of Viewpoint on the involvement of the child or young person:

- All of the team leaders who responded to the survey said that the child/young person's level of participation was much better or better with Viewpoint Interactive.
- 75% of social worker respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, 'The child's views were considered at the meeting. Social workers also feel that children's views influence the child protection plan'
- 50% of team leaders said that 'the child's views were considered better or much better when using Viewpoint'
- 75% of team leaders who responded said that 'the child's ability to influence the child protection plan was either better or much better with Viewpoint'