

19 May 2010

Dear Colleague

## **Complex Families: Multisystemic Solutions**

**Wed, 7 July 2010, Mermaid Conference Centre, London**

We are delighted to be able to invite you to the above conference which will focus on the current findings from research and practice in relation to Multisystemic Therapy (MST) in the UK and internationally.

MST is an intensive family and community-based programme that addresses the multiple determinants of serious antisocial behaviour and offending in young people; including individual, family, school and community factors. The major goal of MST is to equip parents with the skills and resources needed to address the difficulties that arise in raising teenagers and to empower young people to cope with family, peer, school, and neighbourhood issues. Evidence from the US indicates that MST is a cost effective approach to reducing offending by young people, improving family relationships, increasing young people's engagement in school and reducing numbers of young people placed out of home in care or custody. A major research trial is now underway in England to test the effectiveness of this approach here.

The plenary sessions will include keynote presentations from Dr Stephen Butler, University College London and Professor Scott W. Henggeler, Director of Family Services Research Center, Charleston USA on the latest research findings in the UK and internationally. There will also be the chance to hear from commissioners, managers and practitioners from MST sites across the UK and from parents and young people about their experiences.

The conference is aimed at all those who are seeking evidence based, cost effective solutions to working with challenging young people and their families, including: policy makers, commissioners within local authorities and PCTs, senior managers and practitioners within local authority Children's Services, Youth Offending Services, CAMHS, Adult Mental Health, Substance Misuse Services, third sector organisations, those with responsibility for community safety and researchers in this field.

**To reserve a place please complete the attached booking form and return to the conference organiser, Louise Appleby – [louise@key-note.co.uk](mailto:louise@key-note.co.uk) / fax: 0116 232 2057 by 30 June 2010.** We look forward to welcoming your participation at this event.

Yours sincerely

**Cathy James**  
*Mental Health Division*  
Department of Health

**Helen Jones**  
*Professional Adviser,*  
*Children in Care Division*  
Department for Education

**Mary Wyman**  
*Head of Programmes & Innovation*  
Youth Justice Board  
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