

# Nottinghamshire Pathway To Provision

## Information Session



### Resources:

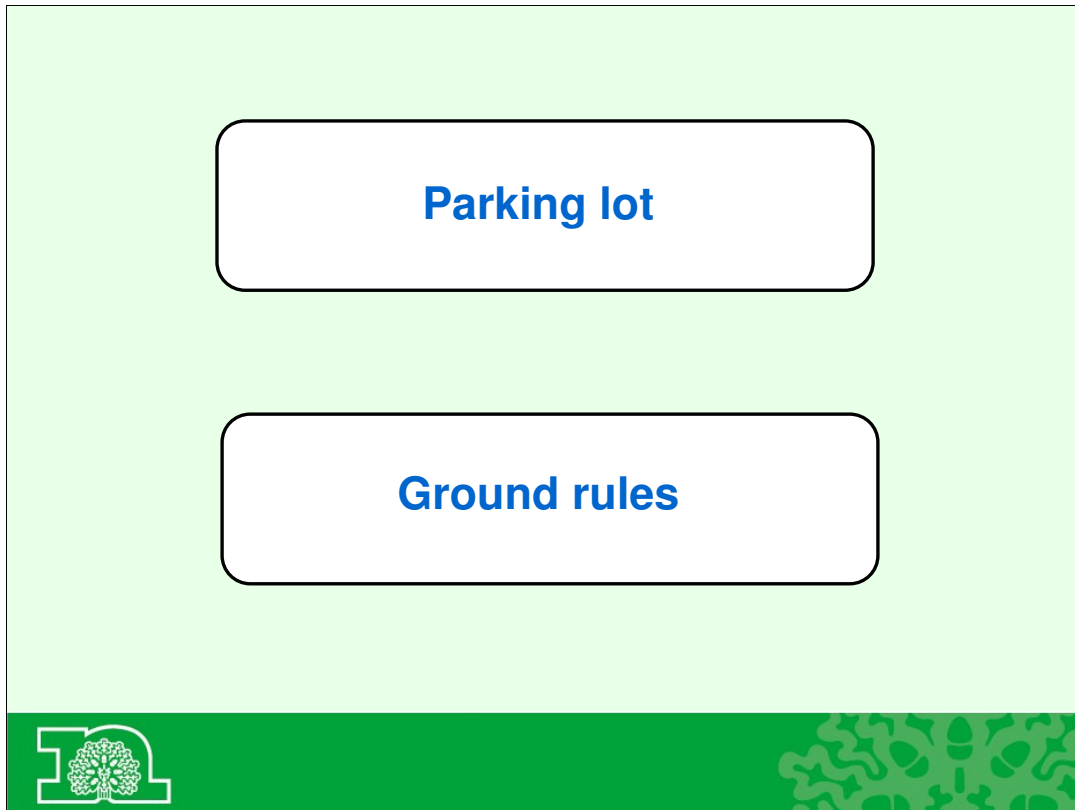
Copies of Pathway to Provision and slides

Copy of JAT and CAF Handbook

Case studies

Flip chart paper

Flip chart pens



Welcome participants, explain the structure of the session: Information giving, an activity and time for questions.

### **Parking Lot**

We have placed a parking lot on the wall. If you have any questions or queries that you would like us to answer, please write them on the post-it notes on your table and stick them on the parking lot. We will answer the questions at various points during the session. Please feel free to ask questions during the session but there may be times when we are going to cover the question you are asking later in the session. If this is the case we may ask to place the question on the parking lot, and will make sure that your question was answered during this time.

## **Ground rules for quality working**

- **Acknowledge each other as equals**
- **Listen to each other**
- **Stay engaged and use the process**
- **No question is a silly question**
- **Minimise distractions (mobile phones off!)**
- **And...?**



## **Aims of the session**

**By the end of this session, participants will:**

- **Be aware of the Pathway to Provision in its Nottinghamshire context**
- **Have an overview of the contents of the Pathway to Provision and its key processes**
- **Gain an understanding of the Joint Access Team & the Common Assessment Framework**
- **Understand the role of the Lead Professional**
- **Identify next steps in order to take this forward within your service**



Explain what you hope to cover over the session, emphasising that the time only allows you to undertake a brief overview of CAF and JATs.

Flag up a copy of the Pathway to Provision Handbook and explain that this will be used for the activity and reference through the session.

## What is the Pathway to Provision?

### It is multi agency threshold guidance

- Defines levels of need for children and young people – 4 tiers
- Provides referral guidance
- Identifies where the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) fits in
- Clarifies the role of Joint Access Teams (JATs)
- Identifies “step up” and “step down” procedures to and from Children’s Social Care.

### It applies across Nottinghamshire Children’s Trust



Refer to page 5 to show the Assessment Framework and point out that you will come back to CAF and JATs later in the session.

Explain that it covers the points on the slide and it is set out in sections to explain the processes ( This is covered again later) Briefly Explain that the Children’s Trust is a multi agency body that works towards consistency in practices

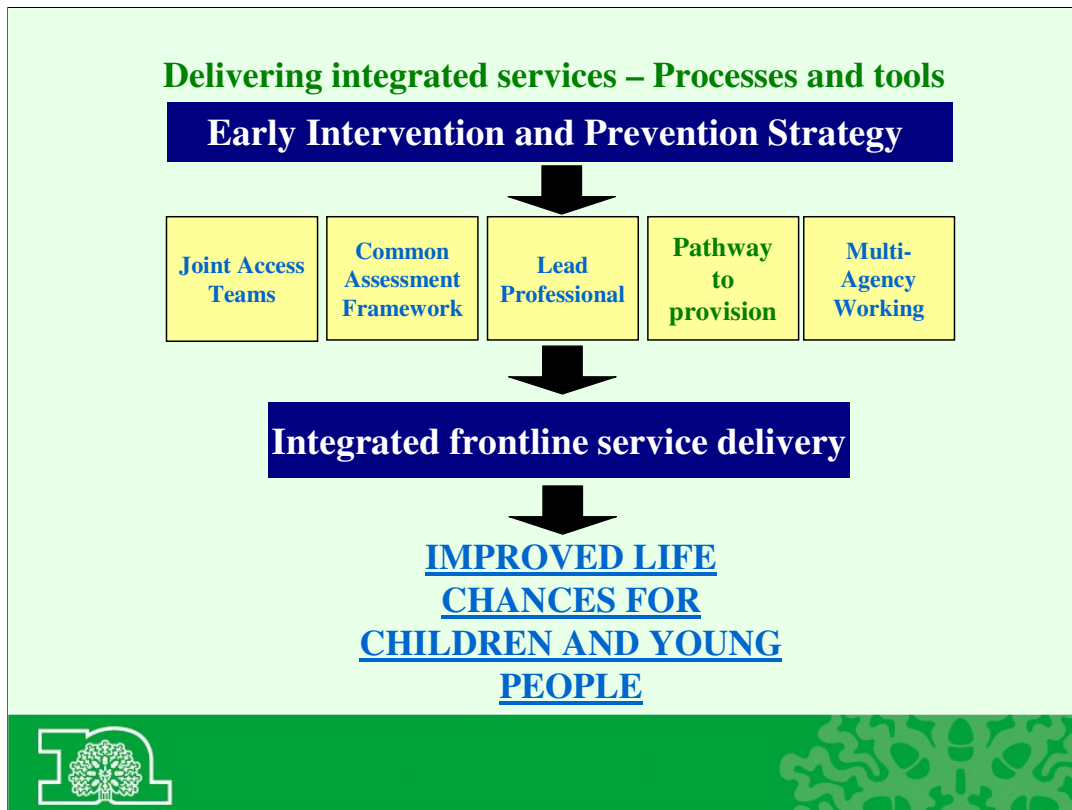
## How does this effect me?

- A key principle is that **all** professionals working with and on behalf of children, young people and their families accept full responsibility for ensuring everything possible is being done to prevent unnecessary escalation of issues and difficulties and that a positive focus is maintained on ensuring the best outcomes.  
(P4 Pathways to provision)



This is the opportunity to establish the relevance of their involvement especially as they may see this as a Social Care responsibility.

You may wish to refer to the Graham Allen Review on Early Intervention but there is no need to go in to depth. The DfE website will have a copy of the report.



Explain that everyone working with C,YP and their families should be working in an integrated way. Ask them to identify where they fit in the diagram. It may be that they attend JATs, complete CAFs and/or be a Lead Professional. They are all part of a multi agency team and they will all need to work within the Pathway to Provision way of working.

## **DISCUSSION – Benefits of Early Intervention**

- Early Intervention means intervening as soon as possible to tackle problems that have already emerged for children and young people.
- It targets specific children who have an identified need for additional support once their problems have begun to develop but before they become serious.
- Early intervention can help children at any age.
- Early intervention should be understood as a process, and not an event.
- Prevention focuses on identifying risk factors for children and young people and building their resilience to deal with these factors.
- Support for parents is key in building children and young people’s resilience.

## Why do we need thresholds guidance?

Department for Education- Improvement Notice (June 2010)

- **“The Council must take action to have clear multi-agency thresholds in place, shared with and understood by all partners, in order for children and young people to access appropriate services and to ensure consistent and high quality referrals from other agencies.”**
- **“the implementation of the common assessment framework (CAF) has been slow to develop” (Ofsted report 21<sup>st</sup> May p8)**



## The Nottinghamshire Context

**Referrals to Children's Social Care, Looked After Children and children with child protection plans have raised significantly since July 2008.**

- **Leading to....**

- ...Reduced capacity within Children's Social Care to work effectively with those children and young people whose needs are greatest

- ...£21 million per annum additional cost pressures currently forecast

- ... Increased financial pressure on all other children's services, including universal, targeted and specialist ones



Explain that the driver for Pathway to Provision came from the inspection findings in Social Care.

FYI

**Referrals to Children's Social Care:**

6,164 in year June 2008/09

9,786 in year June 2009/10 (increase of 59%; national increase = 16%)

**Looked After Children:**

501 in July 2008

623 in June 2010 (increase of 25%; national increase = 17%)

19 Local Authorities saw an increase greater than 50% over the period.

**Children with child protection plans:**

398 in July 2008

727 in June 2010 (increase of 83%; national increase 30% in the last year)

## The Nottinghamshire Context

### Our challenge is to...

Ensure children and young people's needs are met at the appropriate level by the **appropriate service(s)** – **as early as possible**. This will...

- ...Reduce contacts and referrals into Children's Social Care
- ...Reduce the resultant cost pressures
- ...Increase capacity within Children's Social Care
- ...Result in better outcomes for children and young people

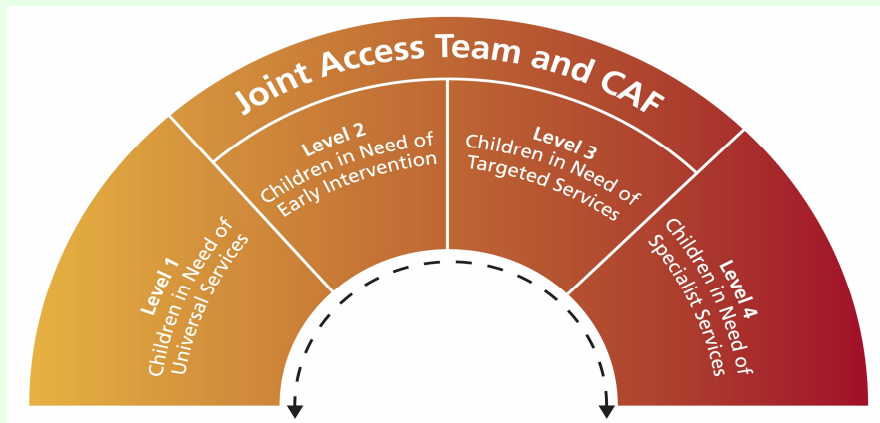
**Implementing the Pathway to Provision is a key way for us to achieve this**



The opening sentence Ensure children... Emphasise that Social Care have a high number of referrals that do not fit into their criteria for support (Level 4) and that other Services can often be accessed and be successful in stopping an escalation in levels of need. Again re-enforce that on the Continuum of need this is where the child or young person may move between levels.

# Pathway to Provision – Section A

## The Nottinghamshire Continuum of Need



- Provides a framework for all practitioners across Nottinghamshire to develop a common understanding of children and young people's needs
- Four levels of need
- Children & young people will move across the continuum as needs change over time
- The Pathway aims to match services to the different levels of need
- Size of segments does not reflect the number of children and young people in Nottinghamshire with that level of need

# Pathway to Provision Handbook

- **Section B: Multi- Agency Thresholds**  
**Guidance including thresholds for Children's Social Care** - it is not a replacement for professional judgement
- **Section C: Outline of Pathways to Provision Levels 1 – 4**
- **Section D: Appendices x 5**  
**Including Step up, Step Down Processes for Children's Social Care**



Refer back to the handbook briefly explain the sections. You may wish to quote a small aspect of the purpose of the section but be aware that some audiences do not like being read to so if you can memorise that would be better.

The aim is for children and young people to have an effective holistic assessment to identify their strengths and level of needs to support referral to the right service at the right time. One of these services may be Children's Social Care.

Step up Step Down Process - Most referrals to Children's Social Care will now be support by a completed CAF. If you are concerned that a CYP may be at risk of significant harm you would follow the NSCB procedures and immediately telephone Children's Social Care and follow it up in writing within 48 hours. This will be using the CAF form/document as a template to support clear effective referral.

Draw attention to section B Threshold indicators as they will be used for the next activity

## Activity: Threshold Indicators

Spend a few minutes familiarising yourself with the Assessment Framework and Levels 1 to 4 threshold indicators (Pages 5 – 11 of the Pathway to Provision Document)

In small groups consider what level you would place the case study at.

You may want to make notes of the process you go through in making your judgement



Before giving out the case studies explain that similar cases may present to themselves or members of their team or both and so they need to use their systems to communicate concerns. This may help determine the level of need.

You may wish to give out one case study per group or more than one. Use your discretion according to numbers and time allowed.

When taking feedback draw out the processes they went through to come to the agreed level ( Or why they couldn't agree)

## What is a JAT?

### ...JAT stands for Joint Access Team

...it is a way of working to deliver cohesive, planned, integrated services to improve outcomes for children and young people.

...it is about drawing together an inter-professional team to work together to deliver high quality, early intervention for children and young people within a family of schools.



Explain on the Pathway where you might refer a child or young person to a JAT. Most schools have someone who can alert the Family JAT team to their concern and request a child's or YP needs are raised at the next JAT after getting consent from the young person (if Fraser/Gillick competent) or parent/carer. If they don't know who their JAT Chairperson and Admin contact are, details can be found on the JAT website on last slide.

## Joint Access Teams

- **Joint Access Teams are Nottinghamshire's key mechanism for early intervention and prevention**
- **42 JATs covering 45 Families of Schools**
- **Referral to JATs use the first two pages of the Common Assessment Framework form**
- **JATs provide an opportunity for a single conversation about a child or young person (aged 0-19) with early intervention or targeted needs**
- **The core membership of the JATs are made up of practitioners from a range of agencies working within the geographical area of a family of schools**
- **JATs meet monthly**



# What is a CAF?

## .....CAF stands for Common Assessment Framework

Using the CAF will help us develop a common understanding of **strengths**, as well as needs and how to **work together** to meet them.

The CAF will help us assess children and young people's **additional needs** for services, **earlier** and more effectively.

The CAF is a **shared** assessment and planning framework to help us in our work with children, young people and families.



The Common Assessment Framework is a universal assessment tool that can be used by all practitioners working with children and young people from pre-birth to age 18 and beyond where appropriate. For example, Connexions can use the CAF with young people up to the age of 19 and up to the age of 24 where a young person has a learning difficulty or disability. It has been designed to gather information about their strengths as well as needs as well as support effective information sharing. The CAF aims to build a single shared picture of what is working well in a child/young person's life and where some support might be helpful.

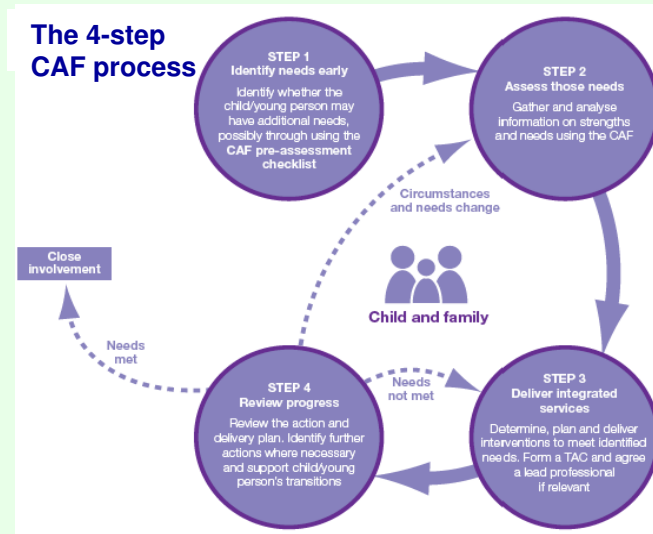
Once consent has been received to start the CAF process it is important that you contact the Integrated Services Admin Team on 01623 433291 and log the CAF.

FYI

Additional needs are those that are not addressed by the universal services that all children have access to. Children and young people with additional needs are those who would benefit from some targeted support to help them achieve improved outcomes earlier. It is important that we begin to identify these needs earlier, shifting the focus from dealing with the consequences of difficulties in children and young people's lives to preventing things from going wrong in the first place. Early intervention means that resources are put into identifying needs as early as possible.

The CAF both encourages and enables practitioners to work together more effectively and in a more integrated way. CAF has a common process, supported by a common approach to recording information. Information is brought together from discussions with the child/young person and their family as well as information and observations from relevant practitioners and services. This

## What does the CAF consist of?



Who can give consent:

Young person 16 or over with capacity to understand

Children 12 or over may consent if Fraser/Gillick

Competent i.e.

- understands questions
- What will be shared and why
- Implications of consenting/not consenting
- Have a clear personal view and not coerced
- Appreciates/considers alternatives
- Consistent

Where child cannot consent or is not competent, person with parental responsibility should consent

# Role of Lead Professional

**Vision:** All children and young people with additional needs who require support should experience a seamless and effective service in which one practitioner takes a lead role to ensure that services are co-ordinated, coherent and achieving intended outcomes

## Core Functions

Act as a single point of contact for the child or family

Co-ordinate the delivery of actions agreed by the practitioners involved

Reduce overlap and inconsistency in the services received



**A lead professional can be chosen during the CAF process or with the support of the JAT.**

### **Criteria for selection include:**

wishes of the child or family

The level of trust built up and the existing or potential relationship with the child or family

The predominant needs of the child or family

The knowledge, skills ability and capacity of the involved practitioners

The person with the primary or statutory responsibility for the work

## “Myth Busting” – the lead professional

Does not need any particular qualifications

### **The Lead Professional:**

Is not automatically the person who initiated the CAF

Is not responsible or accountable for actions by other practitioners or services in the TAC



Does not automatically chair or minute the TAC meetings

Will not be expected to work outside their usual remit

Does not become responsible for the needs of the entire family

Does not have to be an ‘expert’ in everything



## CAF & JAT Handbooks

- **Both Handbooks aim to support the consistency of practice across the County**
- **Provides key guidance on:**
  - **The JAT & CAF processes**
  - **The Role of the Lead Professional**
  - **Quality Assurance Framework for the CAF Process**
  - **The core membership of the JAT**
  - **Roles & responsibilities of JAT Chairs and others**
  - **Information sharing**
  - **The involvement of children, young people and their families in the JAT process**



Explain that the websites contain information including handbooks which can be downloaded, supporting paperwork how to log a CAF and contact details. Show copy of each handbook and advise where a copy is they can have a look at.

## Pathway to Provision – Section D

### **Appendix A - Step up, Step Down Processes for Children's Social Care**

#### **A. Step up processes:**

- **Expectation that most referrals are to be supported by a completed CAF**
- **Outcome of referral – accepted/not accepted**

#### **B. Step Down Processes**

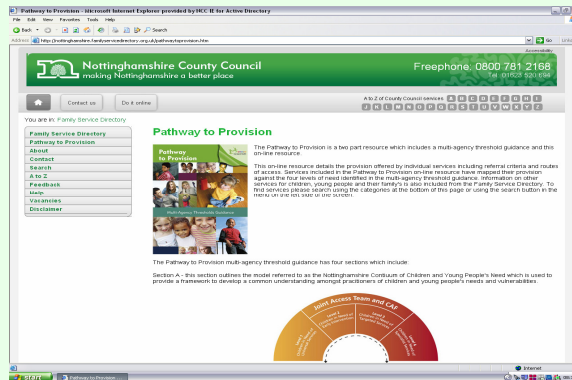
- **Final Child in Need review meeting**
- **Information updated on the CAF**
- **Lead Professional identified or referred to the local Joint Access Team**
- **On-going coordinated support provided to the child & family**



You may wish to pick out key information in the process

# Pathway to Provision On-line Resource

- Provides information on:
  - Services provided at the four levels of need
  - Referral criteria and process
  - Any restrictions i.e. age; geography



Hosted by the Family Information Service (FIS) website:  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/fis](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/fis)

Tel: 0800 781 2168 or 01623 520694 - when calling from a mobile



Explain that everything they have gone through today is supported by the website and it may help them to have a look at the website to deepen their understanding of the importance of Pathway to Provision and the benefits of a common understanding amongst practitioners leading to a consistency in practice across Nottinghamshire

Once you have identified the strengths and level of need you then need to know which services may be able to meet this need. If you are unsure, JATs are a good place to go. Another option is the Pathway to Provision On-line resource which is hosted by Families Information Service. A number of services are mapped against the Pathway to Provision four levels of need and are easily identified by have (L1,2,3,4) after the service name. A number of other services are also included on the directory which aren't mapped but this is a bonus and provides a wider range of options. Services are linked to a nationally agreed set of categories. With FIS hosting the directory we also have the benefit of a helpline during office hours which can support you to find the service that may be appropriate.

# Activity

Read the scenario and consider the following:

1. Using the Pathway to Provision, what level would you consider the child/young person on the Continuum of Need?
2. What else do we need to know?
3. How can we work together to meet this child's needs?
4. Which services may be involved?
5. Any other observations?



Break

## Next steps....

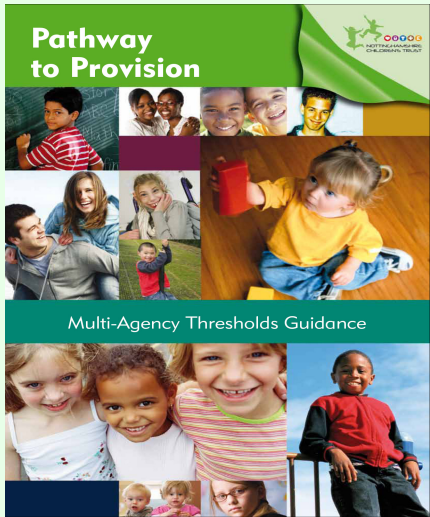
- **Three key learning points**
- **Three Priority Actions  
(to be completed within the next 3 months)**
- **Additional identified learning needs**



## Summary of Key Messages

- q **All services have signed up to this!**
- q **Most referrals to Children's Social Care will be supported by a completed CAF**
- q **JATs are the key mechanism for early intervention and prevention in Nottinghamshire**
- q **The CAF to be used as the common framework for assessment across all services**
- q **The Step up / Step down processes for Children's Social Care to be used across the Children's Trust**
- q **The consistent implementation across the County is essential**





[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pathwaytoprovision](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pathwaytoprovision)

[pathwaytoprovision@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:pathwaytoprovision@nottsc.gov.uk)



# Useful Information

## Local Links

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pathwaytoprovision](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pathwaytoprovision)

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/commonassessmentframework](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/commonassessmentframework)

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/jointaccessteams](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/jointaccessteams)

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb)

## Families Information Service

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/fis](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/fis)

Tel: 0800 781 2168 or 01623 520694 - for people calling from a mobile

## National Links

[www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/integratedworking](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/integratedworking)

[www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/integrated-working](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/integrated-working)

[www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/sharestreet](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/sharestreet)

