**Engaging Fathers in Safeguarding –**

Children, Family and Safeguarding Services within Conwy worked in partnership with the Fatherhood Institute to evaluate practice within the department around how effectively we engage with Fathers/ Male carers within the Child Protection process. The overall goal of this project is to reduce levels of risk and raise levels of care for Children where there are safeguarding/ parenting concerns through the development of improved working practices of Social Care Services and Partner Agencies by more effective engagement with Fathers.

Over the last 12 months, the Local Authority have developed its own internal action plan and provided training to Multi-Agency practitioners around effective engagement with Fathers. The most recent audit identified significant improvements in practice around engagement with Fathers and was also able to demonstrate improved outcomes for Children and Young People.

**Case Example 1**

This is a very good example of engagement with dad. Dad is the main carer and the focus of support services have been around dad. Mother's behaviour is a source of concern and so the department is supporting dad with contact. The social worker has done a significant amount of direct work with dad.

**Case Example 2**

Mother is required to leave the household for a period during which time father makes positive changes and the child is "presenting as a much happier young person who is developing a sense of identity and independence." It is noted that the father has become more proactive and assertive as a result of being responsible for managing the household.