

# What difference will ECM make to Gem?

(Gem is a hypothetical East Midlands child)

***Take yourselves a few years into the future when the current change for children programme has all been established and your visions are being delivered, what difference will it make for Gem and his/her family in the support they get in their situation?***

## Gem as a 3 year old



Gem attends sessional day care with a private childcare provider. Gem has reached most childhood milestones 6-12 months later than expected and speech development seems significantly delayed. Mum struggles with the practicalities of life and often has to rely on neighbours to drop/collect Gem as she has regular outpatient hospital visits. Gem is nearly always hungry at 'playgroup' and often gets violent when playing with other children. Gem has lived in three houses already as mum seems to move very rapidly between relationships – the latest being with a recent arrival to the community who nobody seems to know.

## Gem as an 8 year old



Gem attends the local junior school who are puzzled how little information there is in the file from the feeder infant school. Gem is very quiet, speaking little and seeming to have few close friends. Gem's learning is well below the level expected, but there don't seem to be obvious needs that anyone can put their finger on. Gem seems unkempt and often wears the same clothes day after day. At a recent school swimming session the teacher was a little concerned about some unusual skin markings on Gem's arm. Mum has notified the school that Gem will be living with neighbours for the next few weeks as she needs an extended hospital stay.

## Gem as a 14 year old



Gem has irregular attendance at a secondary school several miles from home. Gem turned up at the school unannounced midway through the last term with mum, requesting a transfer. Gem's schoolwork reaches a minimum acceptable standard but homework is never completed. Gem is often seen down the town centre during the school day, hanging out with other youngsters. The police have met up with Gem in a few incidents, always as a hanger-on, never the chief culprit. According to students in the same class, Gem rarely goes home, but no-one seems to know very much at all, other than rumours about substance abuse. Gem had an unusual respiratory reaction to exercise in a PE lesson recently, but when the teacher expressed concern, Gem went quiet and moody.