

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN THE CITYSIDE

The Cityside Early Intervention Action Group consists of people from the community, voluntary and statutory sector who have come together to look at how services can be improved for families to ensure better outcomes for children.

What do we do?

- We are part of the Western Family Support Strategy which is an initiative aimed at helping families to help themselves to ensure better outcomes for children.
- We have produced a draft Action Plan for better outcomes for children which has been presented to the Western Children and Young People's Committee and the Western Family Support Strategy Group..
- We have produced a leaflet of all the main support services in the Derry City Council area.
- We have selected one priority action to work on together as a multi-agency group to improve outcomes for children.
- We have agreed to keep the Draft Action Plan on our agenda and to lobby and support each other to improve the wide range of early intervention services needed in our community.

Five Family Support Priority Actions for the Cityside:

- Emotional Mental Health of parents (Key Priority)
- Impact of hidden harm such as family violence, addiction, bullying and mental illness. Needs of children as carers
- Children experiencing loss
- Experience of young people – nowhere to go, nothing to do. Drink. Drugs. Isolation. Young Street Drinkers
- Unmet needs of Parents of children with disabilities

Derry City Council area - Statistical Context:

- 30312 children and young people aged < 18 live in Derry City Council area (2005 estimate)
- Derry is the third most deprived council area in Northern Ireland according to the latest Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (2005)
- 27% of new mothers may experience post natal depression (RCM 2007). Potential negative impact on babies and children well documented.
- Prevalence rates suggest that 10% of children (@ 3000) have a mental disorder and 8% (@ 2500) have a mental illness in the Derry City Council area (Keele University 2007)
- 460 children/young people from Derry City Council area were referred to mental health services (2006). Currently 116 children from Foyle Trust on waiting list for child/adolescent psychiatry services (2007)
- Research commissioned by the Department of Health shows that most children (91%) had been hit and around a third are hit severely (Smith and Nobes, 1997)
- Babies under one represent a major group on child protection registers and are more vulnerable to all forms of abuse, especially neglect and physical abuse. DfES (2005)
- 1112 referrals to Family and Child Care Team, 159 Looked After Children, 104 children on child protection register (2006)
- 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence (Women's Aid)
- 1691 reported domestic incidents last year (PSNI 2006)
- 924 children with Statements of Educational Need (WELB 2007)
- 526 children referred to Education Welfare (22 per 1000 school aged children) and 564 pupils suspended in 2005 (WELB)
- 654 children offending including 183 children aged 10-13 years, 367 children aged 14-16 years