

'What Family Support Is On Offer'

Fermanagh Locality Planning Group Members Organise A Family Support Information Fair At Holy Trinity Primary School, Enniskillen.

The Principal & Vice- Principals of Holy Trinity School, Enniskillen as longstanding members of the Fermanagh Locality Planning Group have regularly informed the LPG about the outcomes of their pupils. The school has over 700 pupils and is very active in linking with others and finding creative ways to support the whole family and promote enhanced learning opportunities for all the family. Through recent conversation with the school, it was discovered that they currently have 12% pupils from families where English is a second language and more than 40% of children are currently receiving free school meals they are about to become part of the Extended Schools Scheme.

In an attempt to additionally support the families and school, it was decided that for the second year that Fermanagh Locality Planning Group would organise a Family Support Information Day. This took place again during a Teacher / Parent Day when all the families were encouraged to come into school and meet the staff to discuss their child's progress and learn more about the life of the school.

'What Family Support Is On Offer' took place on the 18th November 2013 and was a great success, with more than fifteen local support agencies and organisations putting up stands to share with parents how they could support them in their parenting role.



Sinead Dolan, Youth Justice Agency Offered Advice to Families Who Have Young People.



Stevie McGirr, Life Line Gave Families Information About Their Telephone Advice Line Which Any Member Of The Family Can Use



Wendy Maher from Cherish Sure Start Puts Chatty Chimp Through His Paces With His Chatty Conversation



Anita Murherjee, Women of the World with Her Range of Resources From Around the World



Maria Magee, NICMA Who Was Encouraging Parents to Consider Child-Minding as a New Career Occupation



Offering a Helping Hand to Families is Kerry Oliver and Rachel Wood from Fermanagh Women's Aid

Outcomes of the Family Support Information Day

- Many of the stall holders reported after the event receiving several new referrals to their service, from families who they would probably never have reached by just normal advertisement means.
- Supporting the school to reach families in an informal way that they have concerns about, acting as a bridge between the family and support within the school
- Informing the staff as to what support services can support them in their role to additional support the family
- Supporting the local community by reaching families that may usually not become aware of support services
- Networking within the support services and exchange learning what each other do and how collaborative links can be formed
- Strengthen the role of Family Support Hub
- Highlight the five key messages for giving children the best start in life

Unexpected Quick Wins

One of the Youth Providers has asked the school if they would like to bring the P7 pupils to visit their Centre for a taster session to make the children aware of all the resources that they can find there when they move to post primary school.

Good links were made with one of the largest private Day Care Providers about on-going staff training and signposting families to Parenting Courses.

For More information About the Family Information Fair or Locality Planning Please Contact Priscilla Magee, 02866324181, priscilla.magee@actionforchildren.org.uk