

4th June 2014

Colin area receives visit from International Childcare expert

A pioneering figure in the world of education, childcare, and parenting visited the Colin area of West Belfast today to take part in a conference organised by Colin Neighbourhood Partnership.

Dr. Carolyn Webster-Stratton attended an Incredible Years conference in Colin where she took part in a question and answer session with local childcare practitioners, schoolteachers and parents.

Dr. Webster-Stratton, Professor of the Parenting Clinic at the University of Washington, is founder of the Incredible Years series of programmes which have been proven to improve child behaviour and promote better parent-child-teacher interaction. The programmes reduce children's problem behaviours and increase positive behaviours, even up to ten years later. The programmes are internationally recognised and are delivered worldwide in 12 countries. Locally, all three elements of the Incredible Years parent, child and teacher Programmes are currently ongoing in many of our Nursery Schools, Playgroups, Primary schools and Community Organisations in the Colin area.

The conference included talks from local parents who participated in the Incredible Years series of programmes and they spoke of how the course improved their child's development as well as their life as a parent.

Manager of Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, Annie Armstrong, explains the significance of Dr. Webster-Stratton's visit, saying: *"We are delighted to have Dr Webster-Stratton in Colin today at our Incredible Years conference. It is a great privilege to have the founder of these programmes visit us and see how we are getting on with implementing them. Everyone at the conference today was happy to witness an example of her unique method of teaching which involves using a puppet to teach children empathy. It was great to see the programmes brought to life by its founder."*

"Colin Neighbourhood Partnership works in association with local organisations and schools to deliver the Incredible Years programmes and we believe the programmes provide great benefits to children and families in this area. In the

Colin area 29% of the population is 15 years old and under and delivering programmes such as these goes a long way to support them. So far 656 children from the Colin area have directly benefitted from the Incredible Years programme.”

Speaking after the Incredible Years in Colin conference, **Dr. Webster-Stratton** said it was valuable to hear that the programmes have been rolled out so successfully and enthusiastically by local organisations. Dr Webster-Stratton said: *“It has been amazing to see everyone’s energy and commitment to supporting local families here. It was inspiring to hear local parents talk about how the programmes benefitted them and it was great to hear about the importance of everyone supporting each another. In the Incredible Years programme the teachers support the parents who then support their children. It’s really great to see partnership working for the benefit of everyone in this local community.”*

Dr Webster-Stratton was in Belfast for the launch of the NCB NI ‘Incredible Years Coordination Project’, commissioned by the Public Health Agency. This project will bring together organisations across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to review delivery and fidelity of Incredible Years, identify gaps and training needs, and measure and report on impact. This strategic coordination will help to maximise impact and ensure positive outcomes for all parents, children and families who take part in the programme.

For more information on the Incredible Years series of programmes in the Colin area contact Bernie Donaghy at Colin Neighbourhood Partnership on 028 9062 3813.

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Notes to editor: Mark from Andersonstown News came to take photos at the event on 4th June

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