

Launch of Think Family Project

The Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family project was introduced in Northern Ireland in 2009 and a significant objective within the regional plan was to introduce a pilot project to develop more family focused Mental Health Services.

The Think Family Project, under the auspices of the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership and supported by the Safeguarding Board Northern Ireland, is currently being introduced as a pilot project in the Down sector of South Eastern Trust. Following extensive awareness raising with teams in the area, the project is now progressing to the launch of new assessment documentation on 22nd September 2014. The project will be rolled out across the Trust's Community Mental Health and Mental Health Inpatient Services, Addictions and Children's Services along with voluntary sector partners including Action for Children, CAUSE and Mindwise.

The new assessment documentation has been developed from the Family Model Handbook by Adrian Falkov (2013) to support improved partnership working with families and carers of all ages to promote the optimum 'Think Family' approach, involving families and carers' perspectives and identifying their needs in relation to education and support.

The introduction of the new assessment documentation will be supported by further awareness raising with teams and specific training will be delivered on working with families, motivational interviewing and communicating with parents.

The project will be subject to formal evaluation.

The Family Model



