



Early Intervention
Transformation Programme



EITP: What is it?

- The coming together of six Government Departments and private philanthropy, as part of the Delivering Social Change initiative, to jointly fund a programme of early intervention
- The programme will seek to:
 1. **equip all parents with the skills needed to give their child the best start in life**
 2. **support families when problems first emerge, out-with the statutory system**
 3. **positively addressing the impact of adversity on children by intervening both earlier & more effectively to reduce the risk of poor outcomes later in life**



EITP: What is it?

- EITP is focused on:
 1. Working together / pulling resources to focus on prevention and earlier intervention
 2. Achieving transformational change by:
 - doing things differently to achieve different outcomes – which may require brave decisions to stop doing some things to invest in other interventions which are more effective.
 3. Using data and outcome indicators to both drive improvement & demonstrate change

A Virtuous Circle





Governance Arrangements

DSC Programme Board – Ministerial Sub-group

DSC / AP Project (EITP / Dementia / Shared Education) with AP /OFMDFM / DE/ DHSSPS /PAs

CYPSP: testing proposals, guiding Programme Board, sustainability planning, co-ordination

EITP Programme Board
(funders – DEL, DOJ, DE, DHSS, DSD, OFMDFM, AP)



WS 1:
Equipping parents with the skills to give their child best start in life

WS 2:
Supporting families locally when problems arise at an early stage

WS 3:
Changing outcomes for children facing particular adversity

Programme Functions

- DSC Structures
 - Overall ownership of all aspect of DSC programme
- EITP Programme Board
 - Comprised of all seven funders – will make all operational decisions relating to the EITP
- CYPSP
 - Formal role to support Programme Board in relation to:
 - Testing proposals (e.g. proposals going to CYPSP in advance of Programme Board for review)
 - Supporting the work of work-stream teams, who will utilise existing CYPSP groups as part of developing their proposals e.g. Early Intervention Group
 - Building the momentum for transformation change and building a sustainable model for the future
 - Shaping / reviewing key Performance / Outcomes data relating to the Programme
 - Along with the Expert Advisory Committee, guiding the Programme Board in key decisions



Programme Functions

- Work-stream Teams
 - Led by Pat Cullen (WS1), Carolyn Harper (WS2) and Fionnuala McAndrew (WS3)
 - WS Leads work closely together
 - Each WS has a number of constituent projects
 - WS Leads responsible for pulling together project-teams with representatives from key stakeholders (using existing structures where possible, such as the CYPSPS Early Intervention sub-group) to develop proposals for the Programme Board / CYPSPS to consider
- Project Teams
 - Each project led by a senior commissioner, working closely with a number of agencies / organisations
 - Supported by an EITP Change Manager, who will help develop proposals, devise specifications and implement initiatives, including procurement where required (one per work-stream).



1) Equipping parents to give their children the best start in life

- Positively changing behaviour at a population level so that parents talk to, play with and hold their infants more and thereby create an improved home learning environment
- Helping parents make choices to reduce stress within their family
 - Relational conflict
 - Mental Wellbeing
 - Housing and poverty
 - Substance misuse
 - Smoking



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What will this look like in practice?

Delivered via three elements:

- Getting Ready for Baby
- Getting Ready for Toddler
- Getting Ready to Learn



Getting Ready to Learn



What will this look like in practice?

Getting Ready for Baby:

1. Improving parental skills to promote healthy brain development:

- The core antenatal pathway will be transformed to enable midwives to deliver key messages to parents about how to promote and nurture healthy infant development, including the importance of playing with, talking to and holding their baby from birth, requiring:
 - Training programme for midwives to deliver these messages as part of core maternity care (during antenatal appointments)
 - Resources for midwives to share with parents including information and aids (such as branded play mats / baby books / nursery rhymes) to help them translate messages to practice
 - Supporting information / videos available online via a new 'Getting Ready for Baby' website
 - Baby MOT first night at home
- Transformation – Parentcraft?

What will this look like in practice?

2. The core antenatal service to also support / challenge parents in relation to reducing their level of stress at home:

- Self Help materials (paper and online), often delivered as part of the core pathway e.g. along with booking letter / or during a scan appointment, covering a range of areas such as drinking, mental wellbeing, relationships etc
- Additional on-site support where needed e.g. smoking cessation
- Clear pathways to other services and evidence informed interventions, ideally delivered in maternity units integrated to core pathway e.g. services for DV, alcohol, mental wellbeing, housing problems, benefits advice



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What will this look like in practice?

- **Getting Ready for Toddler**
- Health Visitors being trained to build on the work of midwives by re-iterating messages & showing how to use the resources that the parents have received:
 - How to maximise healthy brain development via play, talking and holding the baby, using the child development play mat where appropriate
 - Providing additional play / book resources and showing how to use them
 - Talking with parents about how to reduce stress in the family (and re-emphasising why this is important from a child development perspective) and what supports would help parents make the required changes
 - Ensuring additional needs are accessed via Family Support Hubs and other supports
- Using standardised tools to assess social and emotional development at an early stage and the utilisation of evidence based early parenting programmes and early home visits , as part of the Health Visiting service, to improve the social and emotional development of toddlers.

What will this look like in practice?

- **Getting Ready to Learn:**
 - Supporting early years providers (Sure Start, Pre-school nursery, Day Care, Foundation provision in schools) to:
 - Work together to improve the home learning environment by building the skills of parents and applying evidence informed practice across settings
 - Build the skills of their staff
 - Challenge cultural norms and reduce stigma of parenting support by applying interventions universally
 - For illustration - if your child attend pre-school nursery, it becomes normal to attend a parenting programme in that setting in the evening.

2) Supporting Families when problems emerge



Inevitably, despite supporting all parents to give their child the best start in life, some families will need extra support to prevent early problems getting worse. This will be achieved by ensuring that families can access the help they need locally via Family Support Hubs



What will this look like in practice?

- All families in Northern Ireland will live close to a Family Support Hub, where they can access a range of additional support via an open referral system. Referrals will also be expected from a range of sources including schools, CPNs, HVs, SWs, GPs, Sure Start, community groups etc
- A Family Support Hub is a network of key family support agencies who meet regularly to support families with emerging issues
- Each Hub will be able to co-ordinate the delivery of the range of existing services within an area, but will also have access to a core bundle of Early Intervention services / programmes, which all families in Northern Ireland will be able to access via their local Hub. This will ensure that there is a minimum level of service provision which is consistent across all Hubs.

What will this look like in practice?

- In addition to specific evidence informed programmes and supports, the core bundle of early intervention services available locally will include a new flexible early intervention service, whereby a key worker will engage with referred families in order to help them address a range of issues, such as:
 - poor attachment or engagement with baby, including improving the level of play / communication
 - Families with difficulties with managing the behaviour of young children and/or establishing routines
 - Families living in poverty
 - Families dealing with substance misuse
 - Families with adolescents with challenging behaviour

3) positively addressing the impact of adversity on children by intervening both earlier & more effectively to reduce the risk of poor outcomes later in life

There will always be a small number of families who regardless of the support and help offered, are unable or unwilling to provide the care, safety and protection that children need. This strand of work will support new approaches within mainstream services to intervene earlier and more effectively to enable children in these families to be cared for safely and appropriately and helped to grow into confident, well-adjusted adults who can fulfil their potential within society



What will this look like in practice?

- Providing long term family supports via home visiting for parents during pregnancy and in the infants first year of life where the unborn child has been identified at risk of poor outcomes or of coming into care
- Providing sustained and/or intensive supports to families with children of any age, including teenagers, where there are concerns about the care, safety or protection of children, or a risk to family stability (piloted in Belfast)

What will this look like in practice?

- Improving assessment and planning to reduce delays in decision-making about acting in the child's best interests to promote positive outcomes
- Using evidence informed practice to build and support family stability for those families with troubled and/or troubling adolescents
- Targeting young fathers being discharged from justice and care settings to promote and support employment opportunities alongside building their ability to parent well.

How do we know that it is working?

- Working closely with the CYPSP Information Team, via making ongoing performance, both at a population & service level, visible:
 - key outcomes data measured quarterly compared with previous 3 years to understand trend (turning the curve).
 - Performance Wall Charts distributed quarterly assessing performance between areas (Trusts / Hospitals / / Sure Starts etc) in the form of league tables.
 - Annual award ceremony celebrating top performing teams including most improved performance in relation to improving child outcomes
- By rigorous independent evaluation of the programme investigating pre and post intervention impacts
- Supporting initial research for local innovations to enable providers to start building their evidence base



EITP: Conclusion

- A once in a generation opportunity for us to try different approaches to measurably improve outcomes for children
- A broad multi-systemic approach looking to support families at different points, focused on building relationships with families as the key lever for change
- Bringing together all parties (Departments, agencies, communities, C&V sector) with a common vision / approach
- The use of performance management will enable us to see if we are succeeding
- Will require all of us to take ownership to drive the changes needed in our own areas.