

A good news story for Newry Mourne and Down. Jacinta Linden director of SPACE – supporting people and communities every day, said "We are beyond excited here at SPACE NI, the news has finally been released that SPACE along with four other projects, The Cedar Foundation, Here NI, Brain Injury Matters, and Dads NI have been awarded a much needed Big Lottery grant which will fund our work with families over the next 5 years". "We can't underestimate how much of a lifeline this investment will mean especially to local families and local partnerships; particularly within the current climate of cuts and proposed welfare reform.

Ms Linden said "What is particularly encouraging is that this award demonstrates BIG Lottery's confidence and belief in SPACE's ability to build and develop the work previously undertaken by SDFHI in supporting families. The five-year SPACE 1 (Supporting Parents and Children) project will provide early intervention support to families who are experiencing a range of difficulties and challenges that pose a risk to family stability. Tailored support will be provided for children, parents, carers, guardians, grandparents across the Newry, Mourne and Down council area.

Activities will include mentoring, creative arts and activity clubs, and a range of training courses to strengthen families' skills, relationships and ability to cope. As part of this project SPACE will work with the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, NIACRO, Barnardos and Citizens Advice Bureau to link families up with their communities.

Finally on behalf of the SPACE team, management and volunteers we would like to thank each of our partners, stakeholders, funders, families and friends for your support.

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