

Belfast Family Support Network Celebration Event

October 2016

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in collaboration with Belfast Family Support Hub providers hosted a celebration event for the Belfast Family Support Network on 4 October 2016 in Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG) where the South Belfast One Family Support Hub is based.



*Helen Dunn, Regional Coordinator for Family Support Hubs, Health and social Care Board
presenting at the Belfast Hub Network Event, October 2016*

Helen Dunn, Regional Family Support Hub Coordinator from the Health and Social Care Board set the context of the event with an overview of the performance through the Family Support Hubs regionally and locally in Belfast over the last financial year of April 2015/16.

Helen Dunn reported, "Family support hubs have been growing and developing across Ireland over the last 5 years and there are now 29 covering the region. These are multi-agency networks of community, voluntary and statutory organisations who support families in need of early intervention services. Working closely together the network members use their knowledge of local service providers and the Family support NI database to signpost families to the most effective service. By doing so

family hubs ensure families receive the help and support they need at the earliest opportunity. Hubs are intended to be open access and referrals are made from a range of agencies and also by families directly”.

Last year family support hubs supported 4522 families in this way and the families tell us having one place to go to for support works really well for them. The South Belfast Hub 1 is a really good example of this way of working and has already supported numerous families. I wish them every success as the Hub continues to grow and develop.

Natasha Brennan, Coordinator of the South Belfast Family Support Hub from LORAG shared a personal experience from the coordination of family support in South Belfast that; “The south Belfast One family support Hub has been on a consistent journey of development and at present we have over 70 members partnering with the hub and 15 of these are core members who meet monthly to help source services for families in need. Our hub crosses boundaries and has helped create and develop collaborative working partnerships that are focusing on supporting families”.

The annual report for the Northern Ireland Family Support Hubs is now available to download here:

[http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Annual_Report_Card - 2015_16.pdf](http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Annual_Report_Card_-_2015_16.pdf)

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