

# Southern Area Outcomes Group



SPACE, 24 Monaghan Street, Newry, BT35 6AA

Background:-

- Charity registered with Charity Commission NI NIC105005 and HMRC. We work to support individuals and families through challenging times in their life. SPACE has been active on family support issues for 12 years and has developed a range of services to help children and families reach their full potential. SPACE leads on the Family Support HUB for Newry and Mourne and provides the chair for the Newry Locality Planning Group, as well as delivering evidence based parenting programmes e.g Incredible Years. There are three overarching areas to our work.
- In July 2015 we commenced our Big Lottery Funded SPACE1 Family Support Programme. The statistics used in this report are for the period Jan – Dec 16.
- SPACE 1 – Supporting Parents and Children
- SPACE 2 – Supporting People and Communities
- SPACE 3 – Supporting Potential and Community Enterprise

## Outcome of Project as set out under Priority Area 1:-

- Promote social and community engagement for parents and children
- Maximise extended family support
- Support parents and children in developing resilience and resourcefulness in managing the demands of daily living
- Develop links within the community for the family
- Promote engagement with more specialist services and supports where necessary

# How much did we do?

- **Promote social and community engagement for parents and children**

3 x Families and Schools Together Programmes in Partnership with Save the Children – developing relationships between community, families and schools to improve learning opportunities = 138 parents and children

2 x Facts and Fun Days – 240 children, 104 parents supported by 54 agencies in Kilkeel and Newtownhamilton

3x Summer Schemes (Rathfriland, Newtownhamilton and Kilkeel) 78 children participated

- **Maximise extended family support**

SPACE made 130 referrals on behalf of families to provide additional support

SPACE co-ordinated successful appeals on behalf of 15 families through our Social Enterprise, Love Your Space, our FB page, Newry Foodbank and SVP.

- **Support parents and children in developing resilience and resourcefulness in managing the demands of daily living**

SPACE developed and delivered a new resilience programme “SPACEWALK”. This 12 week programme targeted young boys, aged 8-13, who were dealing with the impact of fractured relationships within school, home and the wider community.

1 x Strengthening Families Programme in partnership with ASCERT delivered to families in Newry

- **Develop links within the community for the family**

2 x Speed Networking Events in Crossmaglen and Kilkeel

- **Promote engagement with more specialist services and supports where necessary**

43 successful grant applications to Eat Sleep Learn Play approximately £15000 worth of equipment

19 applications completed to Salvation Army Toy Appeal

6 successful grant applications completed on behalf of families – approximately £2200 worth of items including school uniforms, cookers, beds, specialist pram of disabled child.



# How well did we do it?

- Feedback from parents, children, schools, agencies and external evaluation has been extremely positive, we feel that our unique way of building a relationship with families before signposting results in a bigger "buy in" from the family
- All our evaluation has shown that parents have learnt new skills, for some it was setting routines, boundaries and for others it was understanding they're children's behaviours.
- Even after closing cases we retain a monthly contact with families to check that things are going ok for them.
- A number of parents reported that situations, which they had previously been struggling to manage were now more manageable: - external evaluation on SPACEWALK
- "Rosemarie and myself are very proud of the achievements Sean has achieved from the start of this programme. For many who look at Sean you would think he's a normal fun loving child but for us his family friends and teachers know that Sean has his moments and sometimes finds it hard to interact with other children at times would have self confidence issues and this is where Space came to are help and what a help it was' *This comment was taken from a letter that the father of one of our participants had published on Social Media.*
- Family Star Plus data shows that in 83% of clients report a *Big Increase* (improvement) in their family situation.

Scale	Decrease	No change	Increase
Physical health	17 %	16 %	67 %
Your well-being	0 %	0 %	100 %
Meeting emotional needs	0 %	17 %	83 %
Keeping your children safe	0 %	83 %	17 %
Social networks	0 %	33 %	67 %
Education and learning	0 %	33 %	67 %
Boundaries and behaviour	0 %	17 %	83 %
Family routine	0 %	17 %	83 %
Home and money	17 %	33 %	50 %
Progress to work	17 %	33 %	50 %



# Is anyone better off?

- Families will report that they feel more supported and confident to cope with adversity and note improved family relationships. **This outcome was met in 93% of cases**
- Families will report that they feel that due to support provided by this project they have enhanced parenting skills to better support their children. **This outcome was met in 66% of cases**
- Families will report that due to the support provided by this project they will have a more stable situation at home and as a result now engage in community based parenting activity. **This outcome was met in 58% of cases**



Families and agencies will report improved access and awareness of local and regional programmes for supporting parents, children and families. **This outcome was met in 87% of cases**

## *Findings of external evaluation by Middlesex University on FAST Programme in St Josephs PS Newry*

This cycle had a positive impact on Improvement in *Child's Academic Performance (Prevention of School Failure)*, with a significant improvement in child academic competence reported in approximately one-half of pupils.

The programme also had a positive impact on the *Reduction of Stress that Families Experience in Daily Life*. A significant improvement in general self-efficacy was reported in over one-quarter of FAST parents. There was, however, limited positive impact on the third FAST objective – *Enhancement of Family Functioning*.

Parent satisfaction ratings given at the end of the programme were high (9.4 out of 10). However, parent empowerment in their child's education was low. The retention rate was very high for this cycle, while recruitment rate was at a satisfactory level.