

Southern Area Outcomes Group



SPACE, 24 Monaghan Street, Newry, BT35 6AA

Background:-

Charity registered with Charity Commission NI NIC105005 and HMRC XT. 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.

- SPACE 1 – Supporting Parents and Children
- SPACE 2 – Supporting People and Communities
- SPACE 3 – Supporting Potential and Community Enterprise

SPACE has a small allocation of funding to support BME families in the Newry and Mourne Area (circa £5,500 pa) to deliver signposting and information with and between BME communities. Additionally SPACE was successful in attracting £15,000 pa to deliver practical family support to BME families in the Newry area during 2016/17.

Outcome of Project as set out under Priority Area 2:-

- Developing support networks in the BME community
- Connecting BME families to statutory and voluntary services
- Reducing isolation for BME families
- Provision of time limited practical support to BME families
- Building resilience within BME families
- Coordinating relevant support networks, including formal and informal
- Undertaking individual work with BME families and their children with emphasises on prevention and capacity building

How much did we do?



Outcome of Project as set out under Priority Area 2:-

Developing support networks in the BME community

3 x summerschemes in Rathfriland, Kilkeel and Newtownhamilton attended by BME children.

2 x Facts and Fun Days attended by BME families

- **Connecting BME families to statutory and voluntary services**

46 BME families supported in accessing relevant specialist including, housing advice, education, medical registration, surestart registration, tribunals and benefits advice

- **Reducing isolation for BME families**

Completed 32 in depth homebased assessments investigating social, Physical, emotional and financial needs for the families and assisting them in finding solutions.

- **Provision of time limited practical support to BME families**

Between May and December 2016 SPACE BME Navigator completed 170 hours of practical home based for BME families.

- **Building resilience within BME families**

1 BME single parent completed Incredible Years

1 BME parent now volunteers in our social enterprise "Love Your SPACE"

- **Coordinating relevant support networks, including formal and informal**

SPACE is represented on the NM&DDC Intercultural Forum which meets quarterly to promote emerging needs in BME communities

- **Undertaking individual work with BME families and their children with emphasises on prevention and capacity building**

Between May and December 2016 SPACE BME Navigator completed 170 hours of practical homebased for BME families.



How well did we do it?

All families who require language support are encouraged to attend English Classes – Navigator has done extensive research on accessing free English classes and currently four parents are attending these.



Family with 2 kids who were overweight and did not engage in physical activity. Navigator has been supporting mum with creating healthy meals, budgeting and shopping and organizing physical play on a daily basis. Mum isolated due to living rurally and limited access to public transport. Navigator has helped her to set up a credit union account and she is now saving towards purchasing a car.



Navigator has been liaising between parents and school with three families, Philipino, Romanian and Polish family where there was a fractured relationship and children were struggling and at point of exclusion. All of children are now attending regularly and school and parents communicating effectively.

One family disclosed to navigator that house is infested with rats (small baby in house). Navigator liaised with private landlord and Health Visiting and arranged for pest control to be sent to home.



Navigator liaised between one Polish single parent family, the NIHE and private rental landlord to appeal a housing benefit decision and allow family to stay in her home until decision was made – preventing family becoming homeless

Is anyone better off?

A lady who was living in local refuge has been supported to make local connections, whilst supporting her she has taken up volunteering in local school and with Space. This has helped her build up a network of friends and she is has now moved out of the refuge into rented accommodation, stabilized her legal status, and secured employment.

We have received feedback from one Community Paediatrician thanking us for the work we have done with a Romanian child, she has commented on the change in their behaviour and improvements in school. There is intensive multi-agency work ongoing with this young child and our navigator has commented on the quality of this joined up working. Prior to this work beginning child was on point of exclusion from school.

Navigator worked closely with a Lithuanian family where father is waiting for surgery. The family were struggling to understand letters from hospital and were at risk of being removed from waiting list as he had missed appointments. Navigator intervened and liaised directly with hospital to ensure that this did not happen.

8 families have received grants that will allow their families to eat, sleep, learn and play within the home that they would have been unable to obtain themselves

We have received feedback from over 80% of our closed cases reporting all with positive outcomes. Some of those outcomes included: families stating that they now have access to services that they had no knowledge off, two families stated that they felt less anxious in a time of need, two families stated that they are now in a family routine and behaviour has improved. One family said how life has improved due to being referred to another service. Four of these families now say that they have essential items that they needed and were unable to afford and this has improved their lives significantly.

