

Overcoming Barriers to Childcare for Children with a Disability/Complex Needs

Overview of 2012/13 Funding Initiatives

Objectives

- To increase availability of high quality childcare available for parents of disabled children
- Remove barriers for children with disability to access childcare;
- To facilitate parents of children with a disability/complex needs to return to work/education/training.

Issues highlighted during scoping

- Inability to find childcare provider who is able to offer the level of specialist support that child requires;
- Lack of flexibility to accommodate childcare requirements which may change on a regular basis;
- Lack of specialist equipment/accessibility requirements;
- Childcare is cost prohibitive as child requires one-to-one care which requires employment of specialist staff, or reduces the number of children a childminder can look after;

Cont'd

- Parents lack confidence to leave their child with in childcare as they do not believe that it will be able to meet their particular needs.

Funding Bid

- bid for £500k per annum over 3 years
- £150k allocated for 2012/13
- Additional £350k available immediately in 2013/14
- Further £1m available subject to positive evaluation of 2012/13 funding.

2012/13 Pilot Schemes

Small Grant Scheme

- Up to £2k available for childcare providers, £1k to childminders;
- To be used to pay for/contribute towards the cost of specialist equipment or small adaptations.

Children's Disability Training Programme

- CiNI funded through addendum to HSC Board contract to deliver range of children's disability training;

Small Grants Scheme

Funding criteria

- Additional staff costs **not** eligible;
- Applicant service must be registered with local Trust Early Years Team, and offering a service to children between 0-12 years.
- Applicant service must currently provide childcare to a child/children with disabilities, or must have children with a disability waiting to access childcare.

Funding criteria contd

- Application demonstrates that the service provides an inclusive environment for children with disabilities;
- Application outlines the nature of the disability of referred child/children – and how the funding will support positive outcomes for the child and the setting.
- Service is verified by the Trust as providing a quality service and continuing to meet all Trust Registration Requirements

Funding criteria contd

Eligible Costs:

- Specialist equipment aimed at supporting children with a disability;
- Other equipment that will improve the quality of care/outcomes for children with a disability;
- Adaptation to premises aimed at improving the experience of children with a disability.

Funding Summary

- **91** applications were received
- **65** of those applications were successful
- **26** applications were unsuccessful
- **6** applications were rejected as they did not meet the initial criteria
- **20** of the applications did not meet the scoring threshold

Funding Summary Contd

- A total of **£106,432.92** was requested by successful applicants.
- **£95,627.10** allocated by assessment panel.

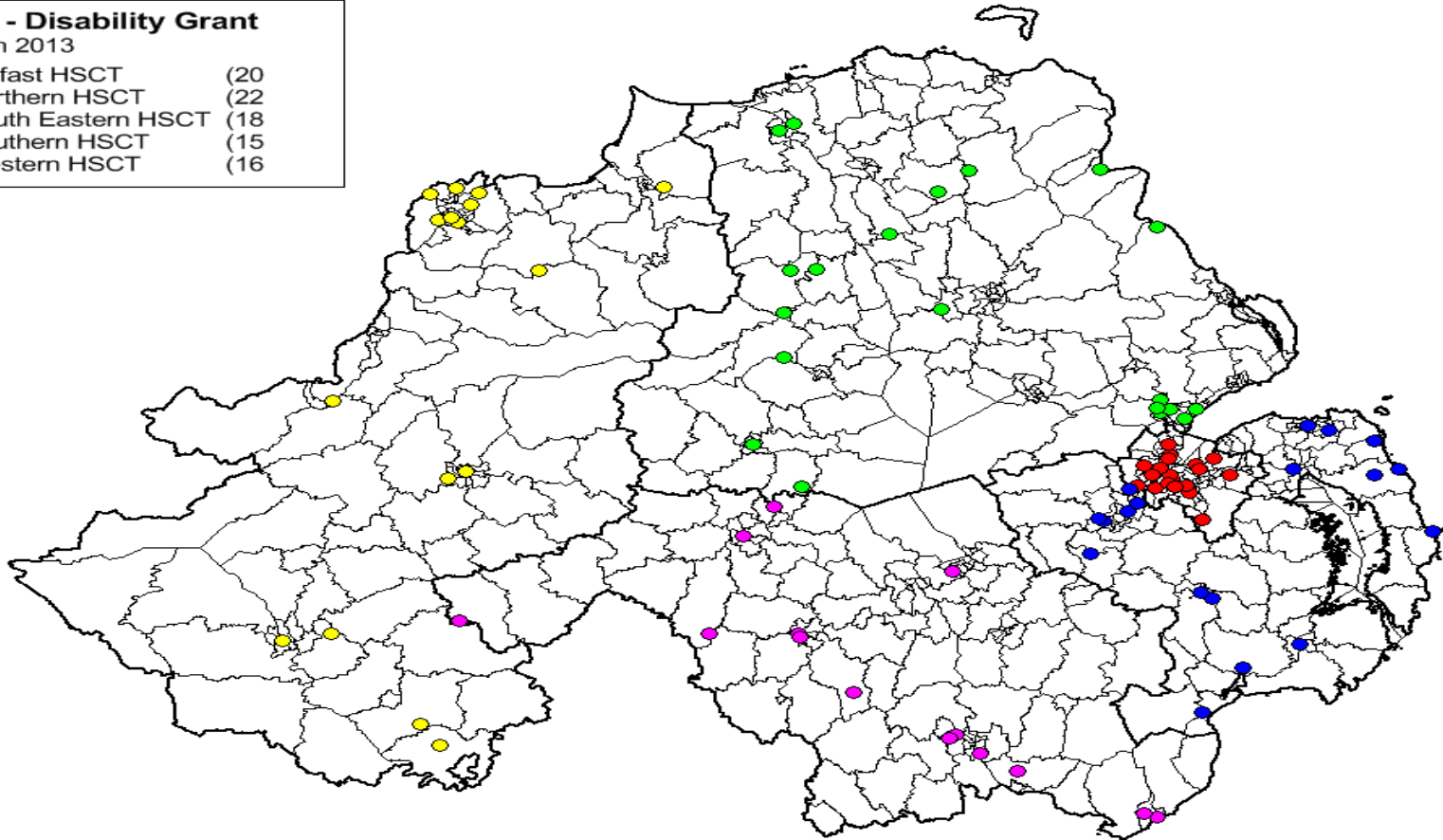
Geographical spread of applicants

Early Years Providers - Disability Grant - March 2013

EYP - Disability Grant

March 2013

● Belfast HSCT	(20)
● Northern HSCT	(22)
● South Eastern HSCT	(18)
● Southern HSCT	(15)
● Western HSCT	(16)



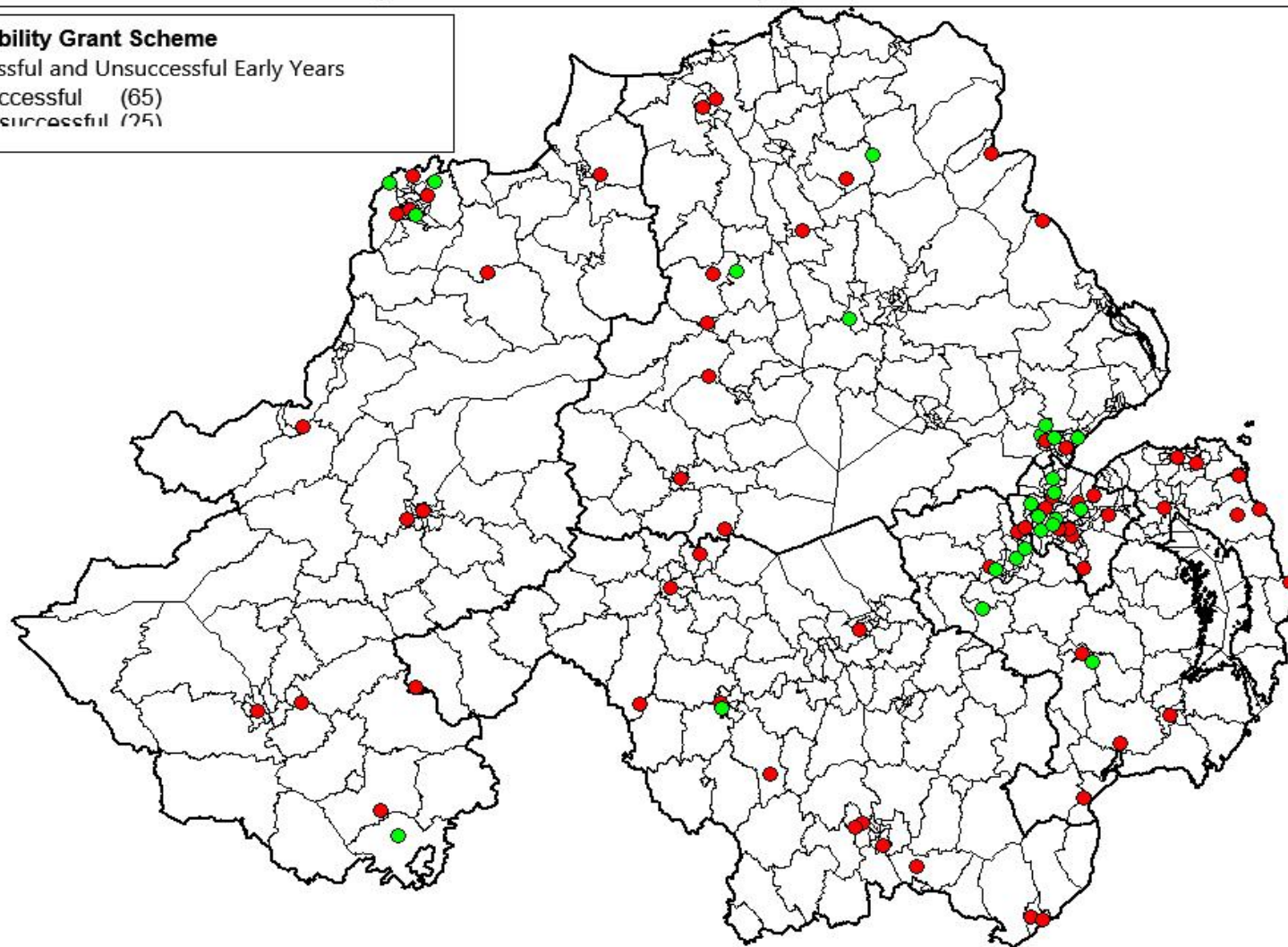
Early Years Providers - Disability Grant Scheme - March 2013

Disability Grant Scheme

Successful and Unsuccessful Early Years

● Successful (65)

● Unsuccessful (25)



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Early Years Providers - Disability Grant Scheme

Disability Grant Scheme - March 2013

Successful and Unsuccessful Providers

■ Successful (65)

▲ Unsuccessful (25)

Early Years Providers

May 2013

● Breakfast Club (6)

● Creche (97)

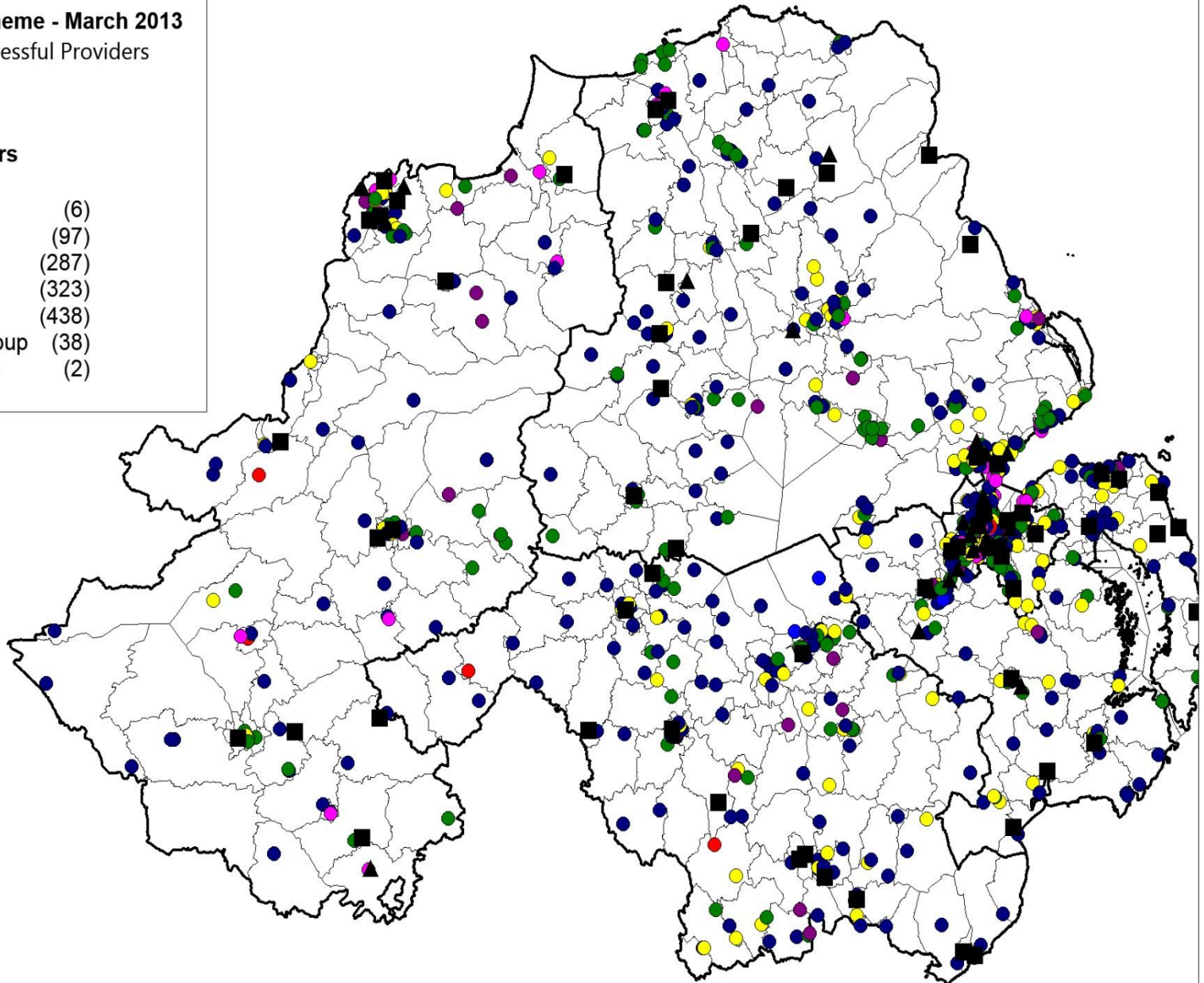
● Day Nursery (287)

● Out of School (323)

● Playgroup (438)

● Pre-School Playgroup (38)

● Sessional Daycare (2)



Children's Disability Training

Aim

- To identify levels of need;
- To test the effectiveness of particular types of disability training for childcare providers;
- To increase capacity/expertise within the childcare sector.

Children's Disability Training Programme

Training courses to increase childcare prospects for children with disabilities.



May 2013

DATE	COURSE TITLE	LOCATION
9th	Multi Sensory Play	Jethro Centre, Lurgan
10th	MAKATON	Fermanagh House, Enniskillen
14th	Managing Challenging Behaviour	Fermanagh House, Enniskillen
16th	Autism and Structured Play	Trinity Centre, Lisburn
20th	First Aid Training - Children with Complex Health Care Needs	CiNI, Belfast
21st	Epilepsy and First Aid	Jethro Centre, Lurgan
22nd	Deaf Awareness and Basic Sign Language Introduction	CiNI, Belfast
24th	Feeding Difficulties in Children with Disability	Ross Park Hotel, Ballymena
28th	General Disability Awareness	Clooney Hall, Derry
29th	Children with Complex Health Care Needs	CiNI, Belfast

June 2013

DATE	COURSE TITLE	LOCATION
4th	Learning Disability Awareness	Trinity Centre, Lisburn
5th	Accessible Communication Methods	Ross Park Hotel, Ballymena
5th	Deaf Awareness and Basic Sign Language Introduction	Clooney Hall, Derry
11th	General Disability Awareness	Trinity Centre, Lisburn
13th	Valuing Everyone - Inclusive Practice	Jethro Centre, Lurgan
14th	MAKATON	CiNI, Belfast
19th	Down's Syndrome Awareness	Jethro Centre, Lurgan
26th	Working with Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders	Ross Park Hotel, Ballymena
27th	Visual Disability Awareness	Ross Park Hotel, Ballymena

Evaluation

- Aim to complete by in July 2013;
- Significant learning opportunity;
- Successful evaluation will allow DHSSPS to draw down up to £1m additional funding for this project.

Next Steps

- £350k immediately available
- Huge demand for small grants/training.
 - Further roll out of these schemes following completion of evaluation of 2012/13 initiative

Next Steps (cont.)

- Wrap around services
 - Significant shortage of wraparound services for disabled children
- Initiatives to support afterschools/summer schemes being considered
- Increased information on childcare for children with a disability
 - www.familysupportni.gov.uk

Questions

- Unmet need?
- How best to ensure sustainable increase in capacity for disabled children within childcare?
- How to manage expectations?
- Anything else?