

#### Research Theme 4

This process is about research support to plan for all children and young people in Northern Ireland.



The CYPSP is also overseeing the development of Family Support Hubs which are there to make sure that individual children and families get what they need. The Research Reference Process will also assist the CYPSP in designing and putting into place an evaluation process for Family Support Hubs. This will enable the CYPSP to find out about the quality of the work of the Family Support Hubs.

#### Where are they located?

This process, involves international research expertise so it is possible for the CYPSP to be informed by expertise wherever it exists across the world. The work is carried out through discussion, which can be by electronic means, and the exchange and refinement of papers and products.

However, all such products, such as the evaluation process for Family Support Hubs, will always be developed with people involved in the service itself, so that all processes and products make sense to those providing and using the services.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

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[www.cypsp.org](http://www.cypsp.org)



Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

#### RESEARCH REFERENCE

#### PROCESS

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## What is the Research Reference Process for the CYPSP?

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) has established a Research Reference Process to make sure that all its work is supported by internationally recognised research. It does this through:

- Providing technical advice to the CYPSP on any aspect of its work
- Providing quality assurance and independent commentary on work outputs of the CYPSP
- Providing a mechanism through which pieces of work can be taken forward jointly by the UNESCO Chairs in the island of Ireland through the Children and Youth Programme and the CYPSP.

## Who is involved?

Two UNESCO Chairs are involved within the CYPSP Research Reference Process Group. The group is co-chaired by Professor Pat Dolan (UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, National University of Ireland Galway) and Professor Alan Smith (UNESCO Centre, University of Ulster) and supported by a child care consultant from Children in Northern Ireland and staff from the Health and Social Care Board.

A full membership list for the research reference group can be viewed on the CYPSP website, [www.cypsp.org/research.htm](http://www.cypsp.org/research.htm)

However, there are others involved, depending on the piece of work being taken forward.

## What do they do?

At present, the research support to the CYPSP is concentrating on;

- Advising on the design and evaluation of early intervention services to promote resilience in children, young people and families
- Advising on the use of existing research to sharpen and guide the outcomes based integrated planning and commissioning.

Four related tasks are being taken forward:

### Research Theme 1:

1(a) Advice has been provided to the CYPSP Early Intervention Sub Group to help prepare its position paper on early intervention.

1(b) Literature search on what has worked best internationally in relation to improving performance in relation to each of the six high level outcomes for children and young people.

### Research Theme 2

The CYPSP Early Intervention Sub Group is mapping all early intervention across Northern Ireland. This means everything from grass roots community based support to the more specialised early intervention offered by statutory or voluntary agencies. The next step after finding out what exists is to **measure the effectiveness** of early intervention across Northern Ireland. This group will look at existing evaluations and outcomes based monitoring processes and the Research Process will support this.

### Research Theme 3

There are many different kinds of evaluations for early intervention. This makes it very difficult to compare how well they work. The Research Reference Process will support the Early Intervention Sub Group to develop and try out a single process which any early intervention service could use. This will be based on measuring how well the service improves the ability of children, young people or families to cope with difficult circumstances (this is called resilience). It is hoped that in time this would provide evaluation information on many different services which could be looked at together.

