



transform

The Early Intervention Transformation Programme

The Early Intervention Transformation Programme (EITP) is part of the **Delivering Social Change**

Atlantic Philanthropies Signature Programme.

The Programme aims to improve outcomes for children and young people across Northern Ireland through embedding early intervention approaches. Collectively funded over a three year period by **DE, DHSSPS, DEL, DSD, DOJ, OFMDFM** and **the Atlantic Philanthropies**, the EITP seeks to transform services to children and families in order to deliver a long-term legacy of improvement.

Programme Launch

The EITP, as part of the wider Delivering Social Change /Atlantic Philanthropies Signature Programme, was recently launched by the First Minister and deputy First Minister, along with Padraic Quirk from the Atlantic Philanthropies, at the Crescent Arts Centre in Belfast. The launch attracted significant press coverage, including coverage on both UTV and BBC news programmes.

Announcing the overall Programme, which includes funding for the EITP and the Dementia Services and Shared Education Projects, First Minister Peter Robinson said:

"This new £58million package of services, under the Delivering Social Change initiative, will result in a real and positive change in the lives of people in genuine need. It is a clear and strong signal of the Executive's determination to improve the lives of everyone in Northern Ireland."

The deputy First Minister said:

"Although the £58million is coming from different sources we all share a common aim. To make a tangible difference to the lives of the people who need it most. We must address the needs of all of our citizens, in particular those suffering disadvantage and those on the margins of society."

Further information on the announcement can be found the Northern Ireland Executive website.



First Minister Peter Robinson, deputy
First Minister Martin McGuinness
with Padraic Quirk from The Atlantic
Philanthropies, at the Crescent Arts
Centre



Programme Focus

The focus of the Programme is;

- government working together/pulling resources to focus on prevention and earlier intervention;
- using evidence to inform changes to practice;
- to deliver transformational improvements in outcomes that can be sustained over the long-term; and
- on using data, research and outcome indicators to demonstrate impact on outcomes for children.

Programme Objectives

The Programme aims to achieve three distinct objectives:

- equipping parents with the skills needed to give their child the best start in life
- supporting families when problems first emerge, before they become embedded or statutory services are required; and
- positively addressing the impact of adversity on children by intervening both earlier and more effectively to reduce the risk of poor outcomes later in life.

Workstreams

These Programme objectives have been translated into the three Programme workstreams:

- **Workstream One** aims to equip all parents with the skills needed to give their child the best start in life;
- **Workstream Two** aims to support families when problems arise; before they need statutory involvement;
- **Workstream Three** aims to positively address the impact of adversity on children and their families.

Workstream One Update

- **Getting Ready for Baby Project**

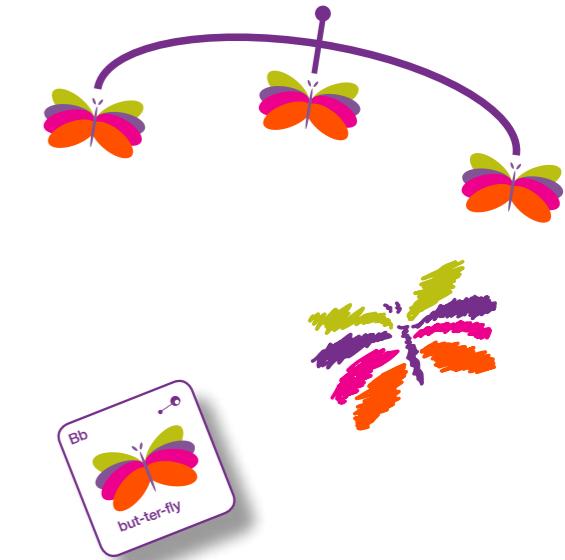
laying the foundations for effective parenthood

- **Getting Ready for Toddler Project**

developing and encouraging parenting skills

- **Getting Ready to Learn Project**

supporting parents as first educator



An initial proposal for Workstream One was presented to the EITP Programme Board in December 2014. As part of drafting the initial proposal; health and education task groups were established to undertake the initial design work; a number of parent focus groups were held; an online survey to help inform an understanding of need was rolled out and a detailed review of the evidence base to inform the development of options was undertaken. A final proposal, developed by the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the Department of Education (DE), will be presented to the next meeting of the Programme Board at the end of March.

The delivery of the EIS will be aligned to Family Support Hubs to deliver a joined up network of early intervention support and services which build on and link to existing services for children, young people and families in each area. As well as this local focus, the EIS will provide a regionally consistent model of support, with the identification and measurement of clear outcomes, to children and families (1,925 families from July 2015 – April 2018). Each EIS will have available a “toolkit” of services and interventions i.e. practical “hands on support”; parenting programmes; behaviour management and a range of evidence informed therapeutic and brief interventions such as Solihull Approach; Motivational Interviewing and Solution Focused Brief Therapy.

Workstream Two Update

- **Early Intervention Service**

The EITP Programme Board recently approved the establishment of five Early Intervention Services (EIS), with one EIS contract being offered in each of the five Outcomes Group areas, via an upcoming procurement process led by the PHA. The EIS model will be tested in these areas over a 33 month period in order to gather and assess evidence to demonstrate the extent of effectiveness and potential for wider replication. The precise location of each of the EIS will be decided by each of the Children Outcomes Groups for their area.





Workstream Three Update

Within Worksteam Three, three projects have been approved by the EITP Programme Board;

- **The Home on Time Project**

Home on Time is a regional concurrent planning project for young children (0 – 2 years) in care that aims to facilitate 60 vulnerable young children over the next three years to secure permanence in half the time that they currently do. This will be achieved by:

- working in partnership with the judiciary, the voluntary sector and social services;
- establishing an intensive assessment and intervention resource within each HSC Trust;
- specialist recruitment, training assessment and support of concurrent carers.

More information on the Home on Time Project is available from your local **HSC Trust Adoption/Family Placement Team**.

- **The Edges Project**

The Edges Project aims to provide an evidence informed, specialist earlier intervention service for young people between the ages of 13 – 17. Aimed at those who are on the ‘edge of care’, custody and/ or education exclusion, the project will be piloted in Enniskillen and Newtownabbey. The Edges project will work intensively with young people and their families where the young person is assessed by the multi-agency Local Implementation Team (LIT) as being at risk of any one or more of the following:

- family breakdown;
- becoming looked after;
- being excluded or suspended from school;
- likely to become NEET
- becoming homeless, or
- entering the youth justice system.

The aim is to work with existing statutory and non-statutory local services to de-escalate concerns, stabilise the whole family system and ultimately connect families and young people into local supports so that stability is sustained. Following a procurement process, from 1 February 2015, Start360 will deliver these pilot projects to the young people and their families on behalf of the LIT.

- **The 6 in 10 Project**

The 6 in 10 Project aims to help young parents coming out of prison to desist from offending behaviour, with a view to enhancing long term outcomes for their children by improving family stability through enhanced employability and parenting skills. Currently, almost 70% of male children of offenders will end up offending themselves. This project seeks to break this cycle of poor outcomes.



The Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Prison Service lead this project, which will be delivered by Barnardo's, Bryson House and Outhouse Consulting. A lease has now been signed in respect of premises on the Lisburn Road, Belfast for the café and IT element of the social enterprise element to this project; which will create 12 months employment for the young offenders on their release.

EITP Research and Development

In order to compliment the measurement of project outcomes being undertaken through the implementation of Outcomes Based Accountability within the Programme, a small EITP Research Fund has been established in partnership with Atlantic Philanthropies and the Research and Development Unit within the PHA. The purpose of this fund is to facilitate a number of small exploratory studies with the providers of EITP projects that may lead to further research funded via mainstream research funds. To help shape the anticipated call for proposals, a workshop was held in Mossley Mill in January with project leads and researchers to explore potential areas of joint interest within each EITP workstream.