

Family Support Hub E-zine Introduction

Dear Readers

This is the fourth edition of themed CYPSP e-zines, this edition will focus on Family Support Hubs.

A Family Support Hub is a multi-agency network of statutory, community and voluntary organisations that either provide early intervention services or work with families who need early intervention services.

The network accepts referrals of families who need early intervention family support and uses their knowledge of local service providers and the Family Support Database to signpost families with specific needs to appropriate services.

The specific purposes of hubs are:

- To improve access to early intervention family support services by matching the needs of referred families to family support providers
- To improve coordination of early intervention family support services by creating a collaborative network of community, voluntary and statutory providers
- To improve awareness of early intervention family support services
- To assess the level of unmet need for early intervention family support services and inform the Trust Outcomes Group

The CYPSP believes that Family Support Services are best delivered in a collaborative and coordinated way to;

- Share expertise and knowledge
- Make the best use of existing resources
- Acknowledges that families may need the help of more than one agency

There are currently 26 Family Support Hubs in operation across Northern Ireland. When complete all of Northern Ireland will be covered. Hubs coordinate existing statutory/community and voluntary services. Some hubs have attached services but this is separate from the core hub function which is about coordination.

- All hubs have a lead organisation
- Most hubs do not have a physical presence
- Hubs are intended to be open access and referrals are made from a range of agencies and also by families directly.
- The importance of hubs has been recognised by Government and hubs are one of the 'signature projects' being supported through the 'Delivering Social Change Initiative'

I hope you enjoy this special edition of the e-zine.

Helen Dunn

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