

**Early Intervention Transformation  
Programme (EITP)**

**Workstream 2 Summary Paper**

**Early Intervention Support Service**

## **Introduction**

Aim is to develop an Early Intervention Support Service (EISS) aligned to Family Support Hubs (FSHS) to support families when problems first emerge, before they become embedded or before statutory services are required. The EISS is being developed as a locally tailored EISS, within set parameters to ensure there is a degree of regional consistency; the overarching model see Appendix 1 is being replicated across the five pilot sites, to a greater or lesser extent to meet local needs allowing for the model to be modified and built upon. How it works in practice will reflect what is currently in place and what is required in the local patch.

### **1. Family Support Hubs**

The Family Support Hub (FSH) is community-facing and consists of a collaborative network of statutory, voluntary and community providers in a specified geographic patch (local area). There will be approximately 29 such 'patches' covering all of NI. FSHS will receive referrals from practitioners in their patch who have concerns about a child, young person or family that has not been resolved through the usual first-level single agency approach. The FSHS generally convene monthly multiagency meetings of providers in their patch and through those ensure that referrals are directed to the provider(s) best placed to meet a family's needs. Existing FSHS have part-time or full-time co-ordinators who manage the multiagency meetings and referral process and develop the collaborative network of providers in their 'patch'. The FSHS will work to a common manual of standard operating procedures.

#### **Key Features of Family Support Hubs**

- Receives referrals for families where the presenting problem(s) have not been resolved through single agency intervention and the referrer is seeking advice or multiagency input;
- Works to a common Manual of Standard Operating Procedures, including family consent, referral forms, confidentiality and assessment;
- Has good knowledge and contact with relevant locality family support and early intervention providers;
- The FSH Co-ordinator facilitates monthly multiagency meetings to discuss, assess and match a family and provider(s), particularly in cases where there may be a number of problems to be addressed;
- Escalates child protection concerns to statutory Social Services if such concerns emerge at any time.

### **2. Early Intervention Service (EISS)**

EISS is being implemented in 5 areas see Appendix 2 & 3 for 33 months and will provide a regional consistent EISS that will support 1,925 families from August 2015 – May 2018; EISS is being implemented as a service closely aligned to the FSH network, which accepts

referrals directly from social care, health and education professionals, self-referrals and from the FSH. The EISS services will work in conjunction with their local FSH(s) to ensure that displacement is not an issue at the local level see Appendix 1 for EISS delivery model. In addition each EISS will have access to Incredible Years Parenting Programmes, Strengthening Families Parenting Programmes and Family Group Conferencing.

The EISS is family-facing and provides hands-on care and support. It consists of family support staff who aim to provide early, timely, flexible and responsive support to families with emerging problems to prevent escalation of those problems. Each EISS will have available a “toolkit” of services and interventions i.e. practical “hands on support”; parenting programmes; mentoring; behaviour management and a range of evidence informed therapeutic and brief interventions including Solihull Approach; Motivational Interviewing and Solution Focused Brief Therapy. The EISS is based on the key worker approach which is recognised as an effective method of enabling families to resolve problems.

### **Key Features of Early Intervention Support Service**

- Close working with the Family Support Hub Coordinator;
- Consists of a key worker assigned to the family to assess their needs and provide a response directly or with other providers until the needs are met satisfactorily;
- Provides timely, therapeutic and practical support to families;
- Operates in any gaps between existing providers and works in collaboration with existing providers to resolve specific problems;
- Short term support, typically up to 12 weeks, but occasionally longer;
- Family Group Conferencing will be provided as an intervention for 5% of families accessing the EISS;
- Refers to the FSH for multiagency input if a family’s problems are not resolved;
- Escalates child protection concerns to statutory Social Services if such concerns emerge at any time;
- Outcomes Based Accountability used to measure the impact.

### **3. Evidenced Informed Parenting Programmes**

The EISS will be supported by the provision of two Evidence Informed Parenting Programmes (EIPP) - Strengthening Families and Incredible Years which are being provided through a Single Supplier Framework. Strengthening Families Parenting Programmes will be provided by ASCERT in the Belfast, South Eastern, Southern and Northern areas and by Derry Healthy Cities in the Western area. Incredible Years Parenting Programmes will be provided by Barnardos in the Northern & Belfast areas. The tender for South Eastern, Southern and Western areas has been republished it is envisaged that Incredible Years Single Supplier Framework agreements will be in place by January 2016 in South Eastern, Southern & Western areas.

Access to the parenting programmes will **only** be available in the five pilot areas of the EISS see Appendix 2. 30K of funding per area per annum is available for Strengthening Families Parenting Programme and the Incredible Years Parenting Programme. The PHA will offer an order for a parenting programme when there are sufficient families within the area to fill the programme (approximately 10-14 families); Referral Process for Parenting Programmes is detailed in Appendix 4. The drawdown for the programmes will be based on need and as a result the number/type of programmes delivered in each area may vary. It is anticipated that there will be a maximum of two Strengthening Families Parenting Programmes and two Incredible Years Parenting Programmes delivered per annum in each area.

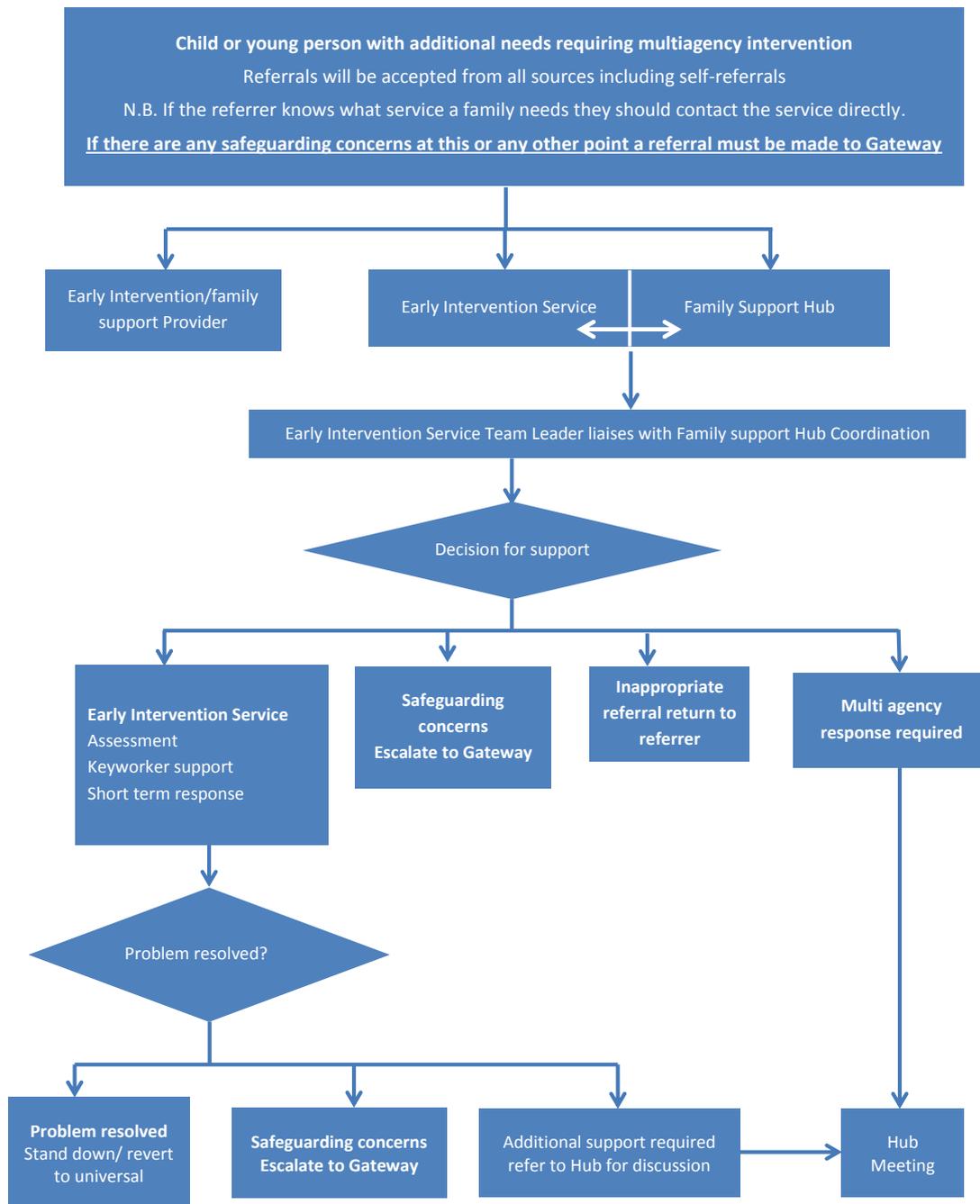
EIPPs planned for 2015/2016 includes an Incredible Years school age Parenting Programme which is currently being delivered by Barnardos in Euston Street Primary School in East Belfast. Two Strengthening Families Programmes will be delivered by Derry Healthy Cities between December 2015 & March 2016 in the Western area location of these programmes has as yet not been confirmed. There will be no further drawdown of programmes from the Single Framework Agreement in 2015/2016.

ASCERT are currently building capacity within the organisation to enable them to deliver Strengthening Families programmes in Belfast, Northern, Southern and South Eastern areas from April 2016 the location of these will be agreed with the service providers, EISS, Family Support Hub Coordinator(s), and the Child Development Interventions Coordinator within each area and the PHA EISS Change Manager. Regular updates will be provided to PHA Heads on EIPP planned for 2016/2017 once these have been agreed.

### **Key Features of Early Informed Parenting Programmes**

- Close working relationship between parenting programme service providers, EISS, Family Support Hub Coordinator(s), and the Child Development Interventions Coordinator within each area and the PHA EISS Change Manager to agree location and timing of each EIPP;
- Close collaborative working with other providers of EIPP in each area to agree location and timing of EIPP and avoid duplication;
- Provisional dates will be agreed for programmes within each area and programmes will be offered when sufficient families have been identified to make the programme viable.
- Referral process for Parenting Programmes is outlined in Appendix 4;
- Referrals will only be accepted for families that reside within the EISS areas see Appendix 2;
- Referrals will be accepted from any organisation or individual, including EISS, FSHS & self-requests.

### Early Intervention Support Service Delivery Model



**Early Intervention Support Service Pilot Areas**

**Belfast Outcomes Group Area**

- Upper Springfield & Whiterock & Greater Shankill FSH
- Inner East FSH
- South Belfast 1 FSH
- Lower North Belfast FSH

**Northern Outcomes Group Area**

- Ballymena, Larne & Carrickfergus FSH

**South Eastern Outcomes Group Area**

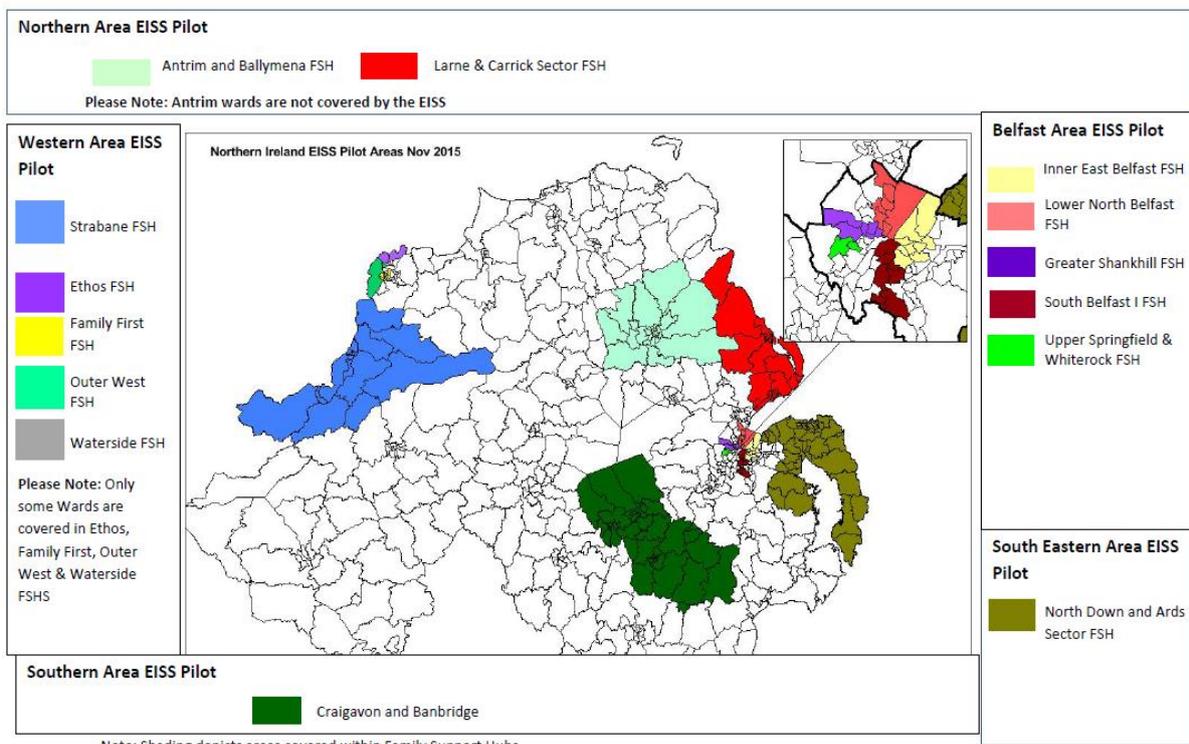
- North Down & Ards FSH

**Southern Outcomes Group Area**

- Craigavon & Banbridge FSH

**Western Outcomes Group Area**

Strabane FSH & some Wards covered by Ethos FSH (Culmore; Shantallow East; & Shantallow West), Family First FSH Brandywell; Creggan Central; Creggan South; Strand Derry & The Diamond), Outer West FSH (Crevagh, Rosemount & Springtown) & Waterside (Victoria Bridge) FSH.



**Contact Details for EISS Pilot Areas**

**Belfast Area – NIACRO**

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**Northern Area – Action for Children**

**Address**

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43 Fairway,  
Larne,  
BT40 2BG

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**Southern Area – NIACRO/SPACE**

**Address**

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BT62 3EP

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**South Eastern Area – Barnardos**

**Address**

Simpson Family Resource Centre,  
40 Manse Road,  
Bangor,  
BT20 3DE

email: [simpsonEISS@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:simpsonEISS@barnardos.org.uk) Telephone: 028 3833 1168

**Western Area – Action for Children**

**Address**

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**For further information please contact Amanda McLean or Maurice Meehan on**

**028 90311611**

**Referral Process for Parenting Programmes**

