

# EARLY INTERVENTION

## FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE A SOCIAL CARE PERSPECTIVE

PAUL MARTIN

NORTHERN IRELAND COOPERATION OVERSEAS

HILTON HOTEL SOFIA NOVEMBER 21ST-  
NOVEMBER 22ND

# Stormont



"We must, no matter how difficult, maintain a focus on prevention and early intervention.

Not to do so isn't simply bad economics, it's morally indefensible"

# OUR ASSERTION: CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

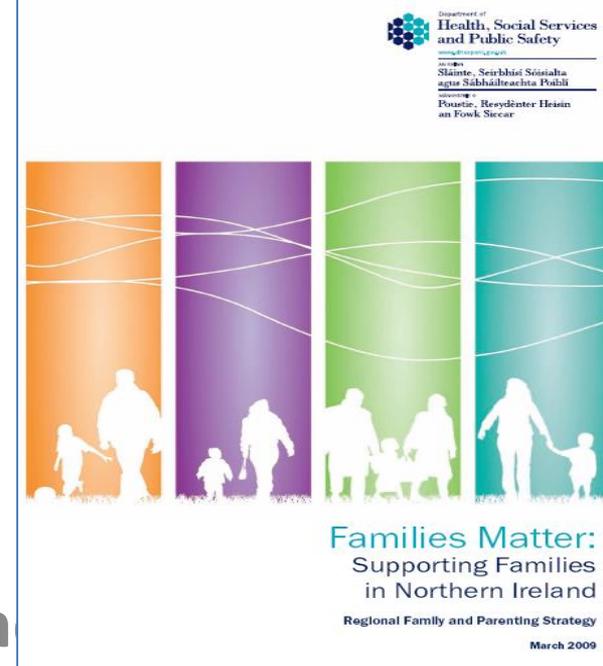
- Designed and delivered along a continuum of need
- Integrated in planning and delivery
- Committed to safeguarding
- Based on the principle of building on the strengths of children and families
- Based on children's rights
- Underpinned by Article 19 of the UNCRC.

# Policy

“Families Matter”

Supporting families in Northern Ireland

“A regional family and parenting strategy”



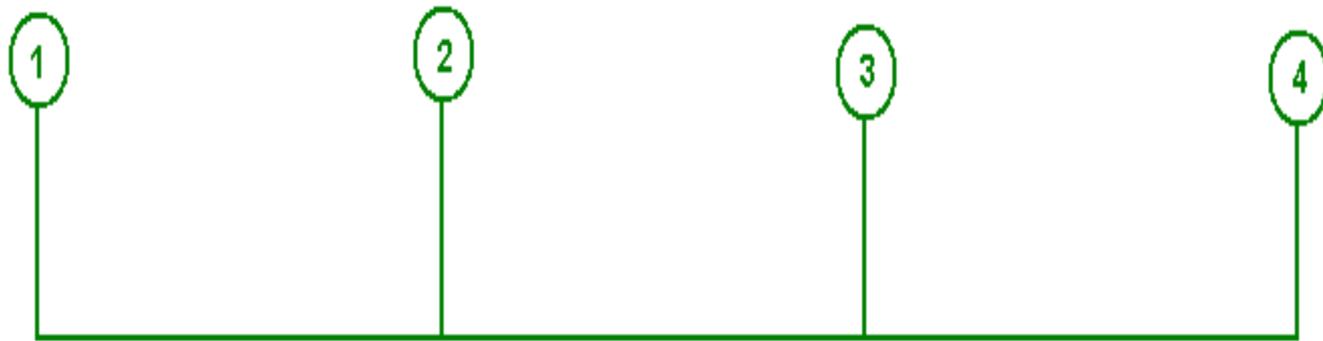
# Families Matter

“Parents are best placed to raise their children”



# Families Matter

Central theme of this strategy is how we can support parents and families in their role as primary care givers first educators and most significantly as role models to their sons and daughters as they grow and develop



**Universal  
Services**  
**Health**  
**Education**  
**Accommodation**  
**Benefits**  
**Preschool**

**children and families with  
additional needs**

**Children with complex needs**

**children in care**



**Similar activities**  
**Different focus**

**Residential services**  
**Foster care**  
**Adoption**  
**Specialised hospitals**  
**Leaving care**

# Reshaping the child care model in partnership

A journey from a rescue model of state intervention to a family support partnership model



# VIRTUOUS CIRCLE OF INTERVENTIONS

- A PRE-NATAL PACKAGE
- POST NATAL PROGRAMMES
- SURESTART PROGRAMME AND CHILDREN'S CENTRES
- PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMMES
- ANTI-DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMMES
- SECONDARY SCHOOL PRE-PARENTING SKILLING PROGRAMMES

# CHILD READY

- Pre natal for all single mothers / Mothercare Pregnancy services
- Post natal; Intensive Health Visits for all single mothers, Family Nurse, Partnership

# SCHOOL READY

- Creating the Attendance Habit
- Children of Prolific Offenders Supported
- Sure-start
- Incredible Years or Triple P
- Primary SEAL; Emotional Competence for all Primary Children
- Roots of Empathy

# LIFE READY

- Drug Education for 11 yr olds;
- Alcohol Education for 11 yr olds
- Big Brother – Big Sister Mentoring
- Witnessing Domestic Violence Health Alliance Project
- Secondary SEAL for all teenagers;
- All 16 yr old mums properly housed
- First Steps in Parenting

# FAMILY CENTRES

PROVIDING FAMILY SUPPORT AND PREVENTING  
FAMILY BREAKDOWN

*"A special place for families and individuals  
who are under stress and who want to make  
a positive change to their lives"*

# SUPPORT AND ADVICE ACROSS A RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING:

- HELPING PARENTS TO MANAGE THEIR CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR AND UNDERSTAND THEIR CHILDREN'S NEEDS
- LIVING WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PARENTAL MENTAL ILL HEALTH and/or ADDICTION;
- REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN HOME;
- POST ABUSE WORK-FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES;
- FAMILY MEDIATION AND FAMILY THERAPY;
- RISK ASSESSMENTS;
- FAMILY SAFETY PLANS;
- SELF ESTEEM WORK.

# PRINCIPLES OF OUR APPROACH

- PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS, CHILDREN AND OTHERS;
- NON-JUDGEMENTAL;
- EACH FAMILY IS UNIQUE;
- HOLD CHILDREN CENTRAL IN HEADS AND HEARTS;
- BUILD ON STRENGTHS;
- GUIDING BELIEF IS THAT CHILDREN SHOULD STAY WITH THEIR FAMILIES IF IT IS SAFE

# HOW DO WE DO THIS?

- OUR APPROACH OF SUPPORTING FAMILIES, BELIEVING IN THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY CHANGES AND UR COMMITMENT TO PREVENTING FAMILY BREAKDOWN IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOL
- FAMILY SUPPORT IN THE HOME
- HOME VISITING SERVICE
- FAMILY SUPPORT WORKERS
- SHORT TERM ASSISTANCE

# PARENT GROUPS

- BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT
- CHILD DEVELOPMENT
- EFFECTS FOR CHILDREN LIVING WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN GROUPS
- CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN IN CARE
- CHILDREN EXPOSED TO RISK IN THE HOME
- CHILDREN DISPLAYING ANGER AND OUT OF CONTROL BEHAVIOUR

# DIRECT WORK WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- ART
- PLAY
- STORIES
- CONTRACTS
- RELAXATION
- FAMILY THERAPY

# Direct Work With Children as partners

Advocacy for children



Communication through play



# FAMILY SUPPORT ROLE-TASK LIST

- LISTENING
- INFORMING
- MODELLING
- SHARING
- DISCUSSING
- DEMONSTRATING

# CHILD CARE/CHILD MANAGEMENT

- CHILD'S PHYSICAL, DEVELOPMENTAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS
- PERSONAL HYGIENE
- HOME CARE /MANAGEMENT
- BUDETING/SHOPPING
- COOKING/NUTRITION
- HOME SAFETY
- PARENTAL ISOLATION
- CHILD ISOLATION

# REMEMBER:

- WE ALL COME FROM FAMILIES
- WE USUALLY GO ON TO CREATE FAMILIES
- FAMILIES ARE ALL DIFFERENT
- FAMILIES ARE SO POWERFUL
- FAMILIES CAN BE HARD TO BE IN
- FAMILIES ARE WORTH SUPPORTING
- CHILDREN NEED FAMILIES

# FAMILY HUBS

- Working in partnership (with children, families, professionals and communities)
- Needs led interventions (strive for minimum intervention required)
- Clear focus on the wishes, feelings, safety and wellbeing of children
- Reflect a strengths based perspective which is mindful of resilience
- Promotes the view that effective interventions are those that strengthen informal support networks

- Accessible and flexible in respect of location, timing, setting and changing needs, and can incorporate both child protection and out of home care
- Families are encouraged to self-refer and multi-access referral paths will be facilitated
- Involvement of service users and providers in the planning, delivery and evaluation of family support services is promoted on an ongoing basis
- Services aim to promote social inclusion, addressing issues around ethnicity, disability, and rural/urban communities
- Measures of success are routinely built into provision so as to facilitate intervention based on attention to the outcomes for service users to facilitate quality assurance and best practice



