

Pre- Birth to Three Plan for Action

Education, Children and Families Committee

15 March 2011

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To highlight the Council's commitment to the improvement and development of Pre-Birth to Three Services within Edinburgh and set out an action plan to raise standards of care and increase support to young children and their families

2 Main Report

Background

- 2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council's Early Years Strategy and Action Plan launched in March 2010 recognised that all our children deserve to have the best start in life and recognised that what they experience in their earliest years is key to their success in adulthood.
- 2.2 One of its key objectives sets out a commitment to prioritise the development of the 0-3s services.
- 2.3 The importance of the first years of life in influencing children's development and future outcomes are now well documented. The period before birth and in the early months and years of life have a profound effect on all aspects of a child's life.
- 2.4 Dr Suzanne Zeedyk, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Dundee has been inspirational in her presentations to staff across Edinburgh in describing the neuroscientific evidence that exists to show that brain development is faster between birth and age 3 than during any other period of life.
- 2.5 From conception to age 3, a child's brain goes from being smaller than a seed to being 90% of the weight and size of an adult's brain as it makes connections in response to the world and to the people around it.
- 2.6 There is a strong relationship between early life experiences, and how babies develop cognitively, socially, emotionally and physically throughout their lives. The recognition of this is a core component of *Getting it right for every child* in Edinburgh and a cornerstone of early intervention.

- 2.7 A wide range of economic studies suggest that returns on early investment in children are high. Research studies by Action for Children, for example, indicate that for every £1 invested in their targeted services designed to catch problems early, society benefits by between £7.60 and £9.20. These savings are seen in the cost of preventable social problems such as crime, mental and physical ill health, family breakdown and substance misuse.

3 Key Achievements to Date

- 3.1 Following the launch of the Early Years Strategy and Action Plan much has been achieved in 0-3s service development, some examples are:

- Two new Early Years Centres at Craigoyston and the Fort have opened and are able to deliver increasingly flexible services to meet the changing needs of families.
- A comprehensive training programme has been delivered to staff working with 0-3s.
- The target to meet the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) registration requirements for childcare workers has been met.
- 93% of preschool establishments are rated good, very good and excellent by the Care Commission.
- Support to families has increased across the city through the development of the Peer Early Education Partnership (PEEP) which provides an early learning opportunity and universal support to families.
- The Prepare Project has supported approximately 70 substance misusing pregnant women with intensive, multi-agency support with the aim to stabilise and reduce their drug dependency. The project has recently been nominated for a COSLA award.

- 3.2 This list of achievements is not comprehensive and Appendix 1 provides a further summary.

4 Way Forward

- 4.1 There is recognition however, that much more could be achieved. An action plan has been developed which sets out an ambitious agenda and timescales for taking forward 0-3s work and addressing outstanding key issues (see Appendix 2)

- 4.2 To raise the awareness of the importance of work with 0-3s the following measures are proposed:

- Key messages and articles will be placed in FACe, Outlook and on the City of Edinburgh and other relevant websites to raise public awareness of the importance of the early years.
- Explore options to raise the profile of early years work through health partners, e.g. DVDs at antenatal clinics, inclusion in red books, developmental checks.

- Engage with the Scottish Government re: possibility of a media campaign e.g.; promotion of national websites- Play Talk Read, LTS Pre-birth to Three DVD
- The option of holding a 0-3s conference will be explored.

4.3 In order to raise the overall standard of care in 0-3s services, a range of measures are proposed:

- A comprehensive training programme for 0-3s practitioners will be delivered to support the upskilling of 0-3s practitioners.
- The importance of 0-3s training for childcare workers will be raised at a national level. Currently, the vocational training programme, which is the career pathway for childcare workers, offers an optional 0-3s unit and is not a mandatory part of their studies.
- There will be an expectation that all 0-3s practitioners, supported by CEC, attend the training programme on the Pre-Birth to Three Guidance.
- It is proposed that a requirement to implement the Pre-Birth to Three Guidance will be added to relevant service agreements with both Sure Start and Partner Provider nurseries. Currently, the CEC contracts with partner provider nurseries cover preschool education (3-5s) and not their 0-3s provision. There may be an assumption, made by parents and carers, that the partnership agreement is a mark of quality which would cover all the nursery provision.
- A quality assurance procedure for 0-3s will be developed and implemented. Currently, the CEC quality assurance support and challenge visits are aimed at the pre-school education for 3-5year olds and the resource available to quality assure 0-3s services is very limited
- Information on quality standards will be made more readily available to parents

4.4 Support to very young children and their families will be taken forward by the following measures:

- The roll out of the PEEP programme to reach all areas of the city to increase universal support to children and young families.
- A review of the Child and Family Centres and related services will be undertaken to consider how best to deliver a range of services to support children and their parents/ carers.
- The implementation of *Getting it right for every child* will ensure that there is effective assessment and early support for children in need and targeted provision for additional support needs. This will include a programme to promote language development for children at greatest risk in developing the key foundation for literacy.

4.5 Opportunities will be taken to refocus and reprioritise resources to ensure that 0-3s work remains a key departmental priority.

4.6 The Best Start in Life Group (a subgroup of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership) will have a role in overseeing and delivering specific actions which are only achievable with partner engagement, involvement and resources.

4.7 The Best Start in Life Group will have a role in monitoring and evaluating progress including the participation of groups protected by equalities legislation.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 Existing funding and staffing resources will be realigned to develop capacity and prioritise early intervention work with 0-3years olds.

6 Environmental Impact

6.1 Not applicable

7 Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Notes the content of this report and commitment to the improvement and development of Pre-Birth to Three services.
- b) Notes the content of the Action Plan.

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Appendices	1. Summary Key Achievements 2. Pre-Birth to Three Action Plan
Contact/tel/Email	Aileen McLean aileen.mclean@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	National Outcome 5- 'Our Children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed'
Background Papers	

Appendix 1

Summary Key Achievements in Early Years March 2010- March 2011

Quality of Provision

93% of preschool establishments are rated good, very good and excellent by the Care Commission.

Support to Families

The following are some examples of support provided to families over the past year:

Child and Family Centres

- C&F centres have provided intensive support to 472 of the most vulnerable children, 82% of which are aged 0-3years.

Parenting Programmes

- 100 practitioners have been trained to deliver PEEP programme which provides an early learning opportunity and universal support to families.
- Number of PEEP groups running increased from 10 in 2009 to 43 in 2010, reaching 400 families.
- 70 starter resource packs are available for PEEP practitioners.
- 20 practitioners have been trained in Mellow Parenting Programme.
- Mellow Parenting Programmes are currently running.
- The Family Nurse partnership (FNP) have successfully recruited 145 mothers under the age of 19 years to this evidence based programme.

Prepare

- Over 70 substance misusing pregnant women have been provided with intensive, multi-agency support with the aim to stabilise and reduce their drug dependency.

Early Literacy Resource

- Child Inclusion Research into Curriculum Learning Education (CIRCLE) early literacy resource has been developed.

Sure Start Programme

- 20 Sure Start projects have supported 2,140 parents and 3,447 children aged 0-3 years through a wide range of services.

Inclusive Playschemes (for children with additional support needs)

- Playscheme places have been funded through Childcare Strategy Funding.
- 332 children have attended summer play scheme for 3 weeks.
- 40 children have attended October Playscheme.
- 40 children attended February Playscheme.
- 212 children attended Easter Playscheme.

Affordable inclusive childcare

- 40 children with a disability have been supported to attend mainstream childcare settings through childcare strategy funding
- 15 childcare providers have been offered training and support to become confident in including child with a disability in their mainstream childcare setting

Childcare Strategy funding has contributed to affordable childcare places in areas of deprivation for:

- 90 childcare places for 0-5s
- 140 childcare places in summer holidays
- 315 out of school care places

Play and Outdoor Learning

- Play@Home has been rolled out in partnership with NHS.
- 160 professionals in Edinburgh trained introduced to the play@home programme to use in their work with parents.
- 68 individual families have received regular support through play@home .
- 75 play@home sessions delivered with 831 adult and 1093 child attendances.
- 93 practitioners attended Nature play conference.
- Summer Play Ranger pilot in North Edinburgh.
- Play day event in Grassmarket in August 2010 was attended by over 500 families.

Preschool Education

- Additional teaching resource has increased access to a teacher for pre-school children in 25 pre-school establishments
- Comprehensive training programme to support the CfE has been developed and delivered to all pre-school establishments

Workforce Development

- All C&F practitioners in early settings currently meet SSSC requirements.
- 83% of childcare staff in partner provider nurseries currently meet SSSC requirements.
- 27 early years practitioners are currently undertaking Froebel CPD course which emphasises the importance of outdoor space and nature. The course has been developed in partnership with the heads of early years establishments and Edinburgh University
- In total 533 practitioners have attended training for Birth to Three between 2008-10.
- 98% of partner provider nurseries and 100% of Child and Family centres have attended Birth to Three training.
- 58 Child and Family Staff, 28 Partner Provider Staff and 2 of the Prepare Team have completed the 21 hour CPD course Confident Staff, Confident Children.
- Approximately 419 staff from across the sector- voluntary, private and Local Authority early years settings have attended training or been involved in developing and piloting the 'Thinking Feeling Doing Resource'
- 50 (out of 56) SVQ level 2 and 3 students working in 0-3s playrooms have received a half day training course entitled Emotional Health and Wellbeing: Why What we do Matters.
- The posts of an early years worker and senior early years worker have been introduced on a pilot basis in nurseries to increase flexibility of workforce.

Appendix 2

Pre- Birth to Three Years – influencing the agenda

Action Plan: what could we do and how could we do it?

	Action	When	Who
Raise awareness of the importance of work with 0-3 year olds			
Departmental	Ensure actions are included in planning processes – link to GIRFEC roll-out	April 2011	Best Start Group and CYPSP
	Develop opportunities for awareness raising with staff - make links to current priorities eg positive destinations		
City Wide	Place key messages and articles in FAcE, Outlook and CEC website and explore opportunities to extend this approach with partners	April 2011 onwards	Communications Department
	Explore options of a city wide 0-3s event/ conference	September 2011	Early Years Team
National	Raise profile through health partners, exploring potential options e.g. DVDs at antenatal clinics, inclusion in red books, developmental checks		Best Start Group
	Engage with the Scottish Government re possibility of media campaign e.g.; promotion of national websites- Play Talk Read, LTS Pre-birth to Three DVD	Immediate	Best Start Group
Raise Standard of Care			
Training	Launch and promote Pre-birth to Three: positive outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families	March 2011 at Early Years Conference	EY Team and LTS

	Revise Edinburgh's Birth to Three Framework and training programme in line with national document and CfE	December – March 2011	EY Team
	Develop and co-ordinate training to support the upskilling of 0-3s practitioners	April 2011 onwards	EY Team
	Deliver training programme to 0-3 practitioners(see attached programme):	April 2011 onwards	EY Team, Growing Confidence, Play Development, Early Literacy Board, Health Visitors
	5 Pre-birth to three training to provide support and guidance on the new national document		
	6 Courses		
	- Early communication and literacy(CIRCLE, play mats)		
	- Play (heuristic play, treasure baskets)		
	- Relationships (brain development, attachment)		
	Raise awareness of the importance of 0-3s training for all childcare workers at a national level with Scottish Government and the SSSC registration council	June 2011	
Quality Assurance in 0-3s settings	Expect all 0-3s practitioners in Edinburgh to attend training programme on Pre-Birth to Three Guidance	April 11- June 2012	Early Years Team
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Stage: practitioners from C&F centre; partner providers, Sure Start • Second Stage: Day carer, childminders, health and other support services 	June 2012 onwards	Early Years Team
	Add requirement to contracts with Sure Start organisations and Partner Provider Nurseries to implement the Pre-Birth to Three Guidance in their settings in line with Edinburgh's Framework	By June 2011	Early Years Team & Practitioners
	Develop a quality assurance procedure for 0-3 settings	September 2011	
	Carry out quality assurance review and support programme to 0-3 settings	September 2011 onwards	

Make information on quality standards more accessible to parents/carers January 2012

N.B. Additional staffing resource would be required to deliver this quality assurance initiative and meet the demand for training

Provide appropriate support to children 0-3 and their families

Universal Support Continue the development of PEEP programme: including training programme for practitioners and the development of PEEP groups across all areas of the city , from pre-birth to preschool age January 2011 onwards Early Years Team

Targeted Support Review the C&F centre provision to identify the range of services required to support children 0-3year and their parents/carers March 2011 onwards Early Years Team

Explore the role of day carers in providing support to children 0-3year and their parents/ carers

Early Identification of children needing additional support

Baseline Assessment Explore opportunities provided through reintroduction of 24/30 month developmental checks Immediate Best Start Group

Agree and carry out an attachment check/ emotional health and well being questionnaire in pilot area June 2011

Refocus Resources Build in to implementation of Getting it Right for every Child Immediate GIRFEC team

Staff Identify capacity from existing staffing to focus on the development of the above by reprioritising current work. Immediate
 Ensure realignment of existing funding (e.g. FSF) to develop capacity in this area of early intervention.
 Agree 0-3s as a key departmental priority for commissioning services and in service redesign within the current budget setting processes
 Ensure 0-3s work remains a key priority area in pending review of support to parents and carers.

Pre-birth to Three Training Programme

Creating enriched emotional and physical environments for Children aged 0-3 years

Course	Course Title
1	Pre-Birth to Three: Getting Started With The New National Guidance 5 events April –November 2011
2	Pre-Birth to Three: Support and Guidance 3 events September – November 2011
3	Pre-Birth to Three: Making Connections (Importance of Relationships and putting research Into Practice) 3 events March –December 2011
4	Pre-Birth to Three: Play (treasure baskets, heuristic play, outdoor play) 5 events March –October 2011
5	Pre-Birth to Three: Talking Mats 3 events May-December 2011
6	Early Literacy/ Communication (CIRCLE)