

Birkenhead Foundation Years Project milestones

SERVICE OUTPUT and OUTCOME	July - August 2014	Red, green, amber	Commentary
<b>Progress towards service level outputs - reaching and sustaining engagement with poorer families</b>	Bump-Start: 60% of families supported meet 2 or more poverty indicators		12 families: 2 have not provided full monitoring data yet; 2 meet 1 poverty indicator; 3 meet 2; 5 meet all three.
	Read it Together @ groups: 50% of families meet 2 or more poverty indicators		11 families: 3 have not provided full monitoring data; 3 meet 1 poverty indicator; 2 meet 2 indicators; 3 meet all three.
	Home Play: 50% meet 2 or more poverty indicators		3 families: 1 met 1 poverty indicator; 2 meet all three.
	Play focussed groups: 50% of families meet 1 or more poverty indicator		28 families across 3 groups: the two groups relying on referrals met high levels of poverty indicators; the open group of 17 families included 10 families who met no poverty indicators. Open groups are an essential element of delivery as they are non-stigmatising and encourage families to try more focussed or targeted groups. We limit attendance to those living in certain post codes but attracting and retaining involvement of families from the more deprived areas depends on a process of outreach and takes time. Mitigation: we discuss the profile of attenders with the provider and look for strategies to reach families from the more deprived areas. Where a provider or a location for the group does not attract our target service user after action has been taken to address this we will consider ceasing to offer the service. We have been challenged to consider part-time work as fulfilling the poverty criteria as changes in benefits are forcing many families into low-paid work. Alternative indicators are being considered and we have asked colleagues in Public Health if they have access to a tool which would allow us to align full postcodes and IMD data.
<b>Impact on home learning environment</b>	Secure referrals from a variety of services for families at levels 1 -2 of need		We have sought referrals from a wide range of services and are now seeking referrals more proactively as the number and geography of groups/support becomes wider. We are attempting to make the underlying purpose of services clearer to those professionals where we would expect to receive referrals. We have data to demonstrate the number of referrals and agencies that referrals are coming from and are continuing to publicise services as they expand but believe that a variety of changes and pressures may be inhibiting referrals at lower levels of need .
	Secure synergy of delivery with Children's Centres and specifically services focussed at a universal level		We have made efforts to develop relationships with Children's Centres to ensure that there is no duplication in provision but during a period of change this has been difficult.
	Secure partnerships with schools to deliver in buildings previously occupied by Children's Centres and to develop services which complement the school's Foundation Stage delivery.		We have started to develop relationships with two schools but other partnerships are proving difficult to initiate. The period covered by this report includes the end of the academic year when schools are very busy and traditionally difficult to contact, followed by the summer holidays. We assume that these difficulties are also related to consultation in relation to transfer of Children's Centre buildings to schools. Mitigation: we are beginning to build a service focussed upon an ex-satellite building adjoining one school and hope that if we are successful there we will become a more trusted partner.
	Activities to engage parents with 'fun' piloted		Pilots run at Wirral Multicultural Centre in collaboration with Little World nursery: 6 parents and 13 children
	Initial programme for play activity on Beechwood estate planned		Planning in consultation with Manor Primary school and a small group of local parents
	30 or more families attend groups		37 families attended groups: St Peters Rock Ferry; Home-Start HUB; Wirral Multicultural Centre; St James Centre; Priory School. Outcome measures were developed for the 2 groups which had a fixed membership and satisfaction data was sought from those attending on a drop-in basis.
	8 or more families receive one-to-one support		8 families received one-to-one support, 2 of which have on-going support. Outcome measures have been tested and are being modified as we assess the value of methods.

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<b>Impact on parental warmth and sensitivity</b>	Secure referrals from midwives and health visitors for antenatal support	Yellow	Collaboration and support for two antenatal services (Bump-Start, Reflective Parenting) was agreed in principle prior to commissioning and subsequently considerable work has been undertaken to secure understanding of these services from midwives and health visitors. Few referrals have been received. We are undertaking research into 6 programmes/services offered nationally and 1 locally outside Merseyside, the majority of which have considerable associated research evidence. The growing picture suggests that none have yet achieved recruitment of large numbers and that referrals antenatally from midwives are difficult to secure UK-wide. A recent meeting with the Royal College of Midwives nationally confirmed that staffing levels and therefore time available for consultations inhibits referrals for services other than those associated with clinical risk around childbirth. Mitigation: we have taken action to develop relationships with other organisations to increase referrals but are committed to exploring ways in which referrals can come from midwives and health visitors. We expect that the introduction of an antenatal visit by Health Visitors may change this referral pattern.
	Secure shared data relating to pregnancy and births from Arrowe Park and 121 midwives. Needed for evaluation and planning.		Commitment to data sharing with Arrowe Park was agreed in principle prior to the project's start. This has been slow to achieve but we believe that there will be progress on this front soon.
	Deliver 1 Reflective Parenting programme	Red	This programme is dependent on sufficient numbers of referrals to our two antenatal programmes (see above - 'Secure referrals from midwives and health visitors'). Recent research into Reflective Parenting delivery in Oxford and Scotland reveals that they have encountered identical problems with referrals and are running some groups with very low numbers. Mitigation: see above and we will discuss this the strategy of small groups with our delivery partner.
<b>Impact on parental mental health and wellbeing</b>	20 or more families receiving one-to-one antenatal support support		Yellow
<b>Influence multi-agency collaboration around school readiness</b>	Collaborative work with Springfield Nursery at Beechwood agreed	Green	
	Meeting with hospital maternity service to discuss action in response to maternity report		Meeting took place and follow-up to be agreed.
	Baby to Toddler consultation questionnaire and interview schedule drafted		