

Policy and Practice



Each issue of HAZ news features one of the Healthy Living Centres in North and West Belfast. This edition features:

Top of the Rock Healthy Living Centre

Top of the Rock (Barr Na Carriage) Healthy Living Centre (HLC) is the result of the work of the Upper Springfield Health Forum, a unique committee made up of local community residents groups; and Health and Social Services personnel from the area.

The HLC came about as the result of work undertaken by the Upper Springfield Health Forum and the programme has been running since April 2003, as part of the Big Lottery Funds HLC programme. Staff members include Coordinator Jim Morgan, Administrator Louise Boyd and

volunteers Doreen Clerkin and Maura Maguire. As a result of securing funding from Wellnet, (Investing for Health), two members of staff were employed on six month contracts to develop and facilitate a range of health promotion and development programmes.

Launch of An Munia Tober

On 29th April, a new support organisation for the Traveller Community was launched. Formed by the merger of the two Belfast Support Groups, An Munia Tober is taken from the "Cant" (Traveller Language) meaning "the good road".

The launch comprised of a morning conference on Traveller issues hosted by Belfast City Council, followed by a visit by President Mary McAleese in the afternoon. Speaking at the launch, President McAleese paid tribute to the commitment of the Traveller Community

in achieving equal rights in areas such as accommodation, health care and education. The President said "I look forward to the day when some of these young people here today are attending our Universities, are becoming our teachers, doctors and lawyers. That is the aim to which we should all aspire, and organisations like this have a vital role in lifting the spirits and vision of the Traveller Community."

Copies of the new An Munia Tober brochure are available on request from their offices by ringing **028 9043 8265**



Derek Hanway chats to President Mary McAleese at the launch.



Practicing their moves at the 'Top of the Rock'.

The HLC is supported by representatives from the following organizations:- Upper Springfield Development Trust Physical Activity and Sports Unit; Whiterock Children's Centre and Ardmonagh Family Centre Family Support Programme; Holy Trinity Centre Community Counselling Services; and Ballymurphy Women's Centre Complimentary Therapy and Stress Management. North and West Belfast HSST provide the HLC with strategic and operational support and funding towards the administration base.

Over the last two years these organizations combined have delivered programmes or services to approximately 4500 people within and beyond the Upper Springfield and Whiterock areas. These services are the key focus of the programme.

As a consequence of partnership working, and additional funding the HLC has been able to deliver a varied range of Health

Promotion and Development Programmes. These have been delivered in partnership with a range of community, voluntary and statutory organisations. The programmes delivered include the following

Men's Health

We have and are continuing to work with community, voluntary and statutory providers to push the issue of Men's Health up the health agenda. A Men's Health Day in Whiterock Leisure/Community Centre is planned for 5th August between 10.00-3.00pm. Held in Whiterock Leisure/Community Centre the day will be a Health Fair with a focus on Men's Health.

Young People's Health Day

On 16th March a day focusing on emotional health and well-being was held in Whiterock Leisure Centre. The activity programme looked at issues affecting young men and women. The positive evaluation for



Learning the ropes at the 'Top of the Rock'.

this day, which was both very effective and successful, is now available.

Smoking Cessation

Eight men come to the four smoking cessation classes delivered through the HLC. This is viewed as hugely successful by the HLC as last year we only managed to get one male onto our six programmes delivered. Of these eight, three of the men stopped smoking, and attended throughout the six weeks of the programme.

Disabled Men's Health

The programme attracted twenty adult men with learning disabilities and was so successful that we have been asked to sit on a working group to deliver a programme of activity on a yearly basis. This will begin with a summer programme based very much along the lines of this pilot programme. Planning for the summer programme is complete and we have a commitment from various organisations to deliver activities. These include Action on Disability, West Belfast Partnership Board, USDT Sports Team, Falls Community Council, Holy Trinity Counselling Services, Whiterock Leisure Centre and Whiterock Children's Centre.

The programme also requires us to work with Springhill Community House and Ballymurphy Women's Centre. Collectively we will be able to deliver eighteen sessions of activities over six weeks during June-August.

Anger Management

The Anger Management class provided opportunities for eight people - male and female to participate in a range of activity related to managing anger including following understanding anger, empathy, relaxation and forgiveness.

Good Morning Upper Springfield

The programme based and facilitated through Ardmonagh Family Centre delivers services to a total of forty-eight older people in the Upper Springfield/Whiterock areas and this is increasing on a weekly basis (see feature).

Salsa dancing

This was by far the biggest attraction of our programme and managed to attract over fifty people across the two five week sessions facilitated in Whiterock Children's Centre. More significant however, was the fact that men participated across the two programmes.

Important learning points have been gained from the recent programmes. Much can actually be achieved whenever groups/organisations pool resources and work in partnership to deliver services to the community. Partnership working also demonstrates the willingness, commitment and determination that exists within individuals and organisations to improve the health and well-being of all people within our community.

Jim Morgan

Getting to grips at the 'Top of the Rock'.



Good Morning Upper Springfield is a community safety initiative that is being delivered by Ardmonagh Family and Community Group in Turf Lodge to the community of West Belfast.

The Good Morning Project is a free and confidential telephone service for older people and those feeling vulnerable. The scheme promotes health, well being and safety, through the provision of information on existing services locally. Working in conjunction with other communities and services, this project aims to reduce the feeling of fear, vulnerability and isolation felt by elderly and other vulnerable people in the community.

A member of the support team phones the clients each morning to check on their well being and to pass on any information that is relevant to them ie info on local housing schemes or local community events. The service also works in partnership with the outreach team who carry out regular follow up with its users. In the event of any issue arising from the call, such an issue can be fast tracked in response.

Another element of the service is that when a client registers they are requested to give two contact names and phone numbers that may be contacted in an emergency. As the first contact is usually a neighbour, this provides an immediate community response.

The difficulties facing our older vulnerable citizens living within our community are identical in all other parts of Belfast and common to most communities - rural and urban. The Good Morning Project, while not in any way a quick fix to this problem, can provide some

immediate relief and allow for more in-depth programmes to be developed. The service provides an immediate sense of relief from isolation, and fear of the unexpected, for all who avail of the service. As the service complements that of the outreach worker, it broadens and strengthens the bond between senior citizens and people delivering such services.

Up until now we have been operating this project with little funding, depending on the goodwill of community volunteers. Initially the idea was to pilot the project, but as we immediately discovered, there was no need to prove the viability because of the positive feedback from users as well as local community groups. From a positive point of view, the project shows the dedication of community volunteers to deliver much needed services to the heart of the community and in a very innovative and professional manner. From a negative point of view we have had to pull back from full development of the project because of the lack of funding at this current time.

We believe that the statutory agencies recognize the potential impact that the Good Morning Projects can have. The Community Safety Unit, Dept of Health and Social Services and the Housing Executive can see that with a focused financial input we could achieve widespread and longlasting benefits to the most vulnerable in our community.

Fresh Fruit in Primary Schools

On 23rd February around thirty school principals came to a seminar in St Aidan's Primary School, Whiterock Road to review progress on the Health Action Zone Fresh Fruit in Primary Schools project and consider how this highly successful pilot project should be taken forward.

Speakers included Gerry Keelan, Principal of St Aidan's Christian Brothers Primary School; Mary Black, Health Action Zone Leader; Naomi McKay, who gave a summary of the recent evaluation by the Health Promotion Agency; Dr Borghild Breistein, Director of Dental Services, North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust; and Paul O'Kane, Fresh Fruit project co-ordinator who gave feedback from the survey of School Principals.

Of the 25 schools included in the schools survey 19 responded. Without exception, they all said that experience of the Fresh Fruit programme was positive. All the principals involved wanted to see the scheme continue. Comments

such as "probably the best health project we've ever been involved in" and "fresh fruit is now school policy" were reflected across all the schools taking part. These findings confirm the very positive feedback from the independent evaluation about the impact of the programme.

The Fresh Fruit in Primary Schools project was launched as a three-year pilot in October 2002. The idea of the scheme was that free fruit would be provided to a number of selected primary schools with funding from the Investing for Health Team of the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety.

The project is a key programme in the Health Action Zone,



Paul O'Kane, Dr. Borghild Breistein, Gerry Keelan (Principal) and Mary Black with pupils from St. Aidan's Christian Brothers Primary School.

led by the Community Dental Service, and has been implemented in such a way as to link with other areas of the curriculum as a practical way of supporting change within schools towards health development. The scheme is in keeping with other initiatives such as "Be Cool in School" and healthy breaks, all of which help address issues like poor diet, oral health and obesity

and contribute to the long term general well being of the children.

Funding has now been agreed by the DHSSPS for 2005/6 and will be used to examine the practicalities of self-financing arrangements. This will include the development of guidance on good practice for new schools wanting to learn from the Fresh Fruit pilot and other health programmes, and get involved.

Breakfast Clubs

A seminar was held on Thursday 10 March for all of those schools and organisations involved in hosting Breakfast Clubs. The Health Action Zone has been keen to support good practice and it is well known that the impact of locally organised Breakfast Clubs has been very significant in terms of the health and wellbeing, attendance, and social skills of young people.

The seminar was hosted by St Gemma's High School and participants heard about the range of initiatives currently underway in schools and of the need to take a whole school approach, one which would link the taught curriculum, together with nutrition standards, and the

development of clubs such as Breakfast Clubs and the Fresh Fruit in Primary Schools Scheme. The work has grown steadily over the years and a number of schools talked about their experience in practice.

Discussion focussed on some of the practical issues for schools

such as the length of breaks for children in the school day, the changes currently being made to school meals to include a higher proportion of vegetables, the costs to families, and the lessons to emerge regarding parents' participation and the added benefits such as increased attention span of children. The overwhelming experience has been positive and parents' contribution to this work has been marked.

Joan Beattie, Health Promotion Officer, Dental Services with North & West Belfast Trust has had a leading role in supporting the development of Breakfast

Clubs throughout North & West Belfast. A small working group will explore the development of good practice.

There has been a steady move towards developing standards for good practice, with set prices for 'healthy' breakfasts. Some programmes have been assisted by the Belfast Regeneration Office, New Opportunities Fund and other funding sources. However, the long-term sustainability of such programmes is a matter of concern.

Integrated Services For Children And Young People

The Health Action Zone has been working towards the development of integrated services for children and young people in North and West Belfast.

This followed an extensive consultation process undertaken in 2002 that informed the second phase of the Health Action Zone work programme. Health Action Zone Council set up a multi agency Integrated Development Working Group to explore how we could work together to improve the life chances of children and young people in North and West Belfast. A number of subgroups were set up to look at the needs of: 0-2 years; children and young people from families with multiple difficulties; young people at risk and looked after children.

Health Action Zone (HAZ) Council members were convinced that much of the work undertaken by the HAZ Integrated Development Working Group would fit with the goals of the Integrated Development Fund.

The Integrated Development Fund (IDF) was established under former Northern Ireland Minister Ian Pearson to:

"provide additional support to strong wide-ranging partnerships, initially in a small number of areas, to enable the production and implementation of agreed strategies to develop and rejuvenate those areas and

communities in an integrated way, with a focus on the economic, social, community, or physical renewal of those areas."

The Fund provided an opportunity to address the findings of the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Employment Task Forces.

The HAZ Council set up a Project Board to take the process of application to the IDF forward. The result of this was a completed funding application for a total of £5m, which was submitted in January 2004. The application has now successfully moved to economic appraisal and we are awaiting the outcome. The Project Board has initiated opportunities for organisations, communities and politicians to meet to discuss the complex issue of integrated

services for children and young people and it is the intention to create further opportunities as this complex work moves forward.

The next steps in the programme development (subject to funding) will be the identification of intervention areas, formation of Local Implementation Action Groups and the development of Local Implementation Action Plans.

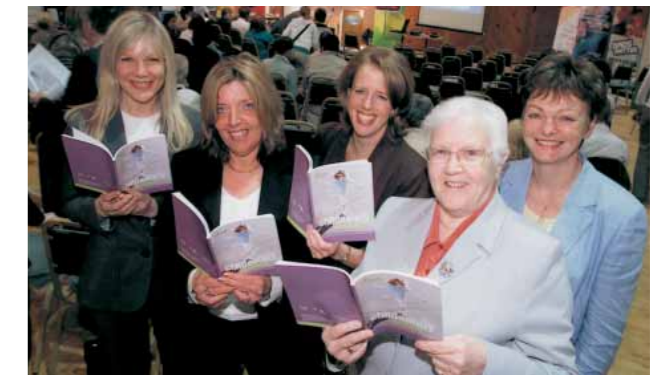
For further information contact Elaine McCarthy, Tel 028 9023 7026 or email hazadmin@nwb.n-i.nhs.uk

Child Safety Directory

On 9th May 150 people came together at the Grosvenor Hall for the launch of the Child Safety Directory by the Health Action Zone Child Safety Forum.

The packed hall heard from various speakers, including Baroness May Blood, who emphasised the need for 'Not concern, but commitment'.

A thought provoking drama was also presented by young people from the Spanner in the Works theatre company.



Suzanne Wylie, Moira Farrell, Caroline Bloomfield, Baroness May Blood and Mary Black at the launch.

The directory of information, training and services will be an invaluable resource for those working with children and young people in a range of settings, as well as for parents, and children and young people themselves. It covers a wide range of issues from accident prevention and child protection issues through to bullying, domestic violence, internet safety, sexual health, substance misuse and many more.

Copies of the directory are available free of charge. Please

contact the Health Action Zone office on 028 9023 7026 or hazadmin@nwb.n-i.nhs.uk.

The Child Safety Forum, chaired by Belfast City Council, brings together representatives of community, voluntary and statutory organisations to share information and promote best practice. Please contact the Health Action Zone office if you would like to be involved.



Suzanne Wylie, Child Safety Forum Chair with young performers from 'Spanner in the Works' drama group.

Suicide Task Group

The recent history of suicides in North and West Belfast is tragic and complex. Many efforts have been made to provide support to the community, however the causes are multiple and prevention is not an issue for health and social services alone.

It is in response to the community's appeal for help that the Health Action Zone has established the Prevention of Suicide and Self harm Task Group. The Task Group is a broad-based coalition which will build on the strenuous efforts already made by many members of the community and voluntary organisations, as well as education, individual schools, health and social services, church organisations and the many efforts of individuals to support families in the face of their concern.

HAZ Council member Bernie McNally who is Director of Social Services, Children and Mental Health at North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust chairs The Task Group.

Invitations to an information seminar were sent to a wide range of community, voluntary, and statutory groups. The seminar aimed to provide information and consider an effective process for developing an integrated approach to the prevention of suicide and self-harm. Around 150 people attended the meeting on 12 April 2005 in the Grosvenor Hall, Belfast. Participants heard about the background to the set-up of the Task Group, evidence of effective practice, developments in other jurisdictions, and local initiatives in Education, Community and Health and Social Services.

Mary Black, HAZ leader presented an outline of the



Task Group participants talk to journalists.

proposed process after which delegates divided into working groups to consider the proposals for taking the Task Group forward. The working groups covered the following issues

- Vulnerable young people
- Schools
- Self Harm
- Family Support; and
- Communications.

It was clear from the feedback that support for the Task Group was coming from across the community. It was agreed that each working group would meet to plan a programme of work and to nominate members for the main Task Group that would steer the project and publish a preliminary report in November 2005.

The first meeting of the Task Group took place on Monday 25th April and was attended by over twenty people representing the local community, voluntary, and statutory agencies across a range of sectors. Representatives from church and political organisations also attended. Those present from the communities affected by the suicides, expressed their feelings of helplessness in the face of a growing need for support in the community.

Members of the Task Group agreed that there was a need to provide people with 24-hour contact numbers to use if a crisis arises. There was also a desire across the



Task Group participants talk to journalists.

group to support families and to remember and celebrate those who had taken their lives.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, it was agreed that a press statement should go out from the Task Group to record these decisions and call for the development of a regional strategy on suicide as soon as possible. Progress so far includes:-

- The publication of a HAZ briefing paper on Suicide and Self Harm which sets out the statistics and policy developments throughout Great Britain;
- An audit of policy and practice within schools in North and West Belfast;
- The production of a list of Mental Health and Related Services serving North and West Belfast with contact numbers has been produced; and
- Plans for a "Celebration of Life" event for Friday 9th September.

The working groups have continued to meet and plans for communicating progress are underway. The Task Group will



Task Group participants talk to journalists.

meet again on 30th September 2005 in the Large Boardroom Glendinning House 10am - 12 noon. A further meeting of the original larger reference group will convene again on Tuesday 29th November 10am - 12noon (Venue to be confirmed)

For further information on the work of the Prevention of Suicide and Self-harm Task Group, or copies of the documents mentioned, contact Mary Black at the HAZ office.

Prevention of Suicide and Self Harm – where are we?

- The World Health Organisation estimates that around one million people die from suicide each year – a global mortality rate of 16 per 100,000. In the last 45 years suicide rates have increased by 60% with young people being the group at highest risk in a third of all countries. The global toll from suicide is greater than homicide (0.5m) and war (0.2m)
- North and West Belfast has a population of around 150,000 living in some of the most socially and economically disadvantaged wards in NI. Research has shown a higher rate of mental illness in this area than elsewhere in NI.
- In NI there are on average 150 deaths each year due to suicide. In 2002 the suicide rate for the North and West Belfast was 19 per 100,000 compared to 10 per 100,000 for the rest of NI.
- In England mental health is one of the priorities for action set out in Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation. The Our Healthier Nation (OHN) target is to reduce the overall death rate from the baseline of 9.2 deaths per 100,000 in 1995-97 to 7.4 per 100,000 in 2009-11. Latest available rates for 2001-3 show a rate of 8.6 per 100,000.
- Suicide rates in Scotland at 26 per 100,000 are among the highest in Europe. In response, suicide prevention has become an urgent public health issue. In 2002, the Scottish Executive launched Choose Life, the National Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent Suicide in Scotland. £12m was allocated to support the strategy.
- Thus far in NI Promoting Mental Health – Strategy and Action plan 2003 – 2008 has identified the prevention of suicide as one of the four key areas for taking the strategy forward. Earlier this year a regional group under the Chairmanship of Colm Donaghy was set up to take forward the recommendations related to suicide.
- Media attention and lobbying by the families affected by suicide in North and West Belfast has resulted in open debate involving the new Health Minister Shaun Woodward about the way forward. One thing is certain, this is a complex issue that needs a comprehensive regional strategy, and soon.

Women's Information Group - Health Fair

A major Women's Health Fair took place on Thursday 24th February 2005 in the Grosvenor Recreation Complex, Grosvenor Road. Organised by the Community Health Information Workers of the Women's Information Group, the event was attended by over 250 women.

Kathleen Feenan of the Women's Information Group said, "The Health Fair gave women from across Belfast an opportunity to get first hand advice from medical staff on important health issues such as Blood Pressure, Diet, and Cancer Awareness; and to sample many alternative therapies such as Reikki, Indian Head Massage, and Aromatherapy."

The Health Fair was aimed at women across Belfast who may not always be able to take time out to pamper themselves; or would normally not be in a position to avail of the therapies and

advice provided. The Health Fair provided a chance for women to focus on their own wellbeing; and give them a unique opportunity to try new services all in the same place and on the same morning.

The Women's Information Group are also leading the development of the Community Health Information Workers scheme. An evaluation of this long running and highly successful programme is expected shortly. The programme is based on volunteers in local communities sharing information about health.

Greatly Missed

Many people were shocked and saddened at the death of Kate Newitt, who championed the needs of young people for many years in the Youth Service, and for at least 16 years with the Sexual Health Team of the Eastern Health & Social Services Board. Kate was well known for her high standard of work, her sense of fun and enjoyment, and for the stimulation that she brought to any situation. She will be greatly missed by her friends and colleagues.



Kathleen Feenan gives a warm welcome.



Milling around the stands.



Women's Information Group Community Health information workers.

North Belfast Employability Access Project

Unemployment and access to employment as a key route to tackling social exclusion and improving health and wellbeing has been an important development pathway within the Health Action Zone for the past number of years.

At a seminar on the 24th February participants heard about the background to the Futures project; the findings of the evaluation carried out by Dr Mike Morrissey and Ross McCrea, CENI and caught first sight of a new resource pack - Guide for Delivery of Employability Projects.

The Futures project began in mid 2002 with staff in post by the end of the year. There was extensive promotion throughout 2003. However, for various reasons, the sample of participants failed to reach the targets originally set. The project board laid alternative plans to attempt direct access to claimants but this still resulted in a disappointing number of participants.

The evaluation sought to maximise the learning from the project and make this available to others. The work undertaken for Futures demonstrated a complexity of forces at play in addressing long-term unemployment.

North Belfast Partnership Board, with the support of the Health Action Zone, applied and has been successful, for the second round of EQUAL funding. The approach will be based on a tailored initiative, building on the learning from the Futures programme, and addressing a specific gap in the labour market.

The specific aims of North Belfast Employability Access Project (EAP) are

- to test new models of recruitment and selection;



Participants at the Futures seminar.

- to promote social inclusion and employment, specifically with the Health & Social Services sector;
- to lead the project between the Health and Social Services Sector and Employability Services and unemployed people;
- to contribute to improving the supply and demand for quality jobs; and to contribute to the trans-national cooperation in order to ensure learning across the programme as a whole.

the development partnership is chaired by Eamonn Molloy, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Affairs, North & West Belfast Health & Social Services Trust.

Representatives from DEL, BIFHE, the Mater Hospital, North City Training, North Belfast Employment Centre, Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, Women's Tech and North & West Belfast Health & Social Services Trust, as well as Health Action Zone central team are also represented on the partnership board. A number of working groups are now taking forward the details of the programme.

A programme leader, Emma Baldwin, has been appointed and a team is currently being put in place, led by North Belfast Partnership Board. A number of Health Action Zone partners are involved in the partnership and

For copies of the Futures Evaluation Summary or Guide for Delivery of Employability Projects Resource Pack contact the HAZ office.



Dr. Mike Morrissey, Mary Black, Ross McCrea, Brendan McDonnell, John McGeown and Brian Barry, Chairman Futures Project Board (seated) launch the Resource Pack.

Focus on the **Disablement Advisory Service**

The Disablement Advisory Service (DAS) is the Branch within the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) that specialises in offering employment and training opportunities to people with disabilities. DAS also helps employers recruit, retain and benefit from disabled workers.

DAS provides its services and programmes through a team of Disablement Employment Advisors (DEAs) who are based in Jobs and Benefits Offices/JobCentres. They carry out client centred interviews, identify barriers to employment and draw up agreed Action Plans aimed at enhancing clients' employability and progressing them into or towards work. They visit employers to promote the abilities of people with disabilities and to obtain employment opportunities. DEAs also visit employers to deliver presentations aimed at raising staff's awareness of disabilities, their potential impact in the workplace, provide disability etiquette and advice on common courtesies when dealing with people with disabilities.

The Disablement Advisory Service also has a team of Chartered Occupational Psychologists who have extensive professional experience including assessment, guidance, consultancy and research.

They work within the Disablement Advisory Service to provide professional support to DEAs in delivering employment services to people with disabilities and their potential or existing employers.

Programmes available through Disablement Advisory Service:

Work Preparation

Work Preparation is an individually tailored, voluntary,

work-focused programme, enabling people with a disability to address barriers associated with their disability and prepare to access a labour market with the confidence necessary to achieve and sustain their job goal.

New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP)

A voluntary programme aimed at assisting people with disabilities who are on health related benefits find and retain work. NDDP is provided by Disablement Employment Advisors (DEAs) and Job Brokers.

Employment Support

A scheme for people who are unable to achieve the standard output levels because of a severe disability.

Job Introduction Scheme

A job trial grant of £75 per week for 6 weeks that is available to employers who may wish to see how a person with a disability performs "on the job".

Access to Work (NI)

This is a flexible programme designed to overcome employment related obstacles faced by people with disabilities. It can help with a wide variety of supports such as Communication Support at Interview, Special Aids and Equipment, Adaptations to Premises and Equipment, Travel to Work and Support Worker.

For more information contact: Your Disablement Employment Adviser (DEA) can be contacted

at your local JobCentre or Jobs and Benefit Office.

Falls

Jobs & Benefits Office
19 Falls Road
Belfast BT 12 4PD
Tel. 028 90 512939

Andersonstown

JobCentre
1st Floor
Kennedy Centre
564-566 Falls Road
Belfast BT11 9AB
Tel. 028 90 871880

Shankill

Jobs and Benefits Office
15-25 Snugville Street
Belfast BT13
Tel. 028 90 543534

North Belfast

North Belfast JobCentre
Gloucester House
57-63 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 4RA
Tel: 028 90 283703



Staff from the Disablement Advisory Service, Disability Action and USEL at the launch of the Work Preparation programme in the Targeted Initiative areas.

Parents' Participation In their Children's Education

A number of exciting programmes have been developing over the past three years, which aim to ensure the active participation of parents in their children's education.

The Health Action Zone has been directly involved in developing practice in two local primary schools, St Joseph's, Slade Street and Holy Family Primary School as part of the BELB's Parents' Support Programme.

This work is running alongside programmes being supported through the Communities in Schools initiative and other local schools. The evaluation of the programme in St Joseph's has shown marked benefit for children, staff, and of course for parents themselves. The partnership approach between the school, parents, children, and local community, voluntary and statutory organisations is advanced by the inclusion of a multi-sectoral steering group. This has ensured that connections are made between programmes such as SureStart, local nursery provision, the Healthy Living Centre, and the provision of formal and informal opportunities for education in school.

Parents have been encouraged to join the programme to settle new children into school and this has recently led to the development of a six-week programme as part of 'induction'. The work aims to ensure that the school takes account of the parent and child needs, and that parents are given the opportunity to

take part in their child's education.

A number of enjoyable and practical programmes have also developed. These include story telling events, a World Food Day, arts and crafts programmes, physical activity courses, and the development of a school garden. The work begun in school and led by a parent support teacher, has been integrated into the school as a whole, led by the school principal and other teachers. Recently the launch of the 'Enriched Curriculum' guide in St Joseph's was testimony to the work that the whole school has carried out to ensure that the school works in harmony with the local community and partner organisations to address the needs of children.

Specific areas of need have also been tackled such as those of parents whose first language is not English. Work has also included supporting families in greatest need to achieve better results for children and their parents.

An evaluation of St Joseph's has been completed and evaluation of the programme in Holy Family is expected soon. The results will be used to inform and improve programmes in schools. Parents' enthusiasm is already evident from the wide range of activities currently underway.

Investing for Healthier Communities

The Investing for Healthier Communities Grant Programme ran from April 2002 to 2004 and was funded by £2.5m from the Executive Programme Fund. The programme, led and developed by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, was part of the Executive's commitment to the Investing for Health public health strategy.

The significant element of the Investing for Health strategy has been its cross-departmental commitment, and inclusion of organisations from statutory, community and voluntary sectors, as well as the active participation of communities in determining their health needs and approaches to address those needs. The grant programme was a significant part of this approach.

The Community Foundation received a total of 319 applications, and after a rigorous assessment process about 80 per cent of the available funding was awarded to 27 demonstration projects, and 20 per cent to 54 one-off projects.

The subsequent independent evaluation conducted by LOCUS Management identified a range of impacts on organisations: on individual and community beneficiaries; in partnership working; and significantly, in examining the lessons to emerge. A conference in the Grosvenor Hall on 2 March was an important opportunity to learn about the work. The innovation and energy associated with programmes was clear, with a sample of the projects presenting to conference.

The conference heard from VelaMicroboards, Aware Defeat Depression, and of a local neighbourhood approach in Flying Horse Ward Community Forum. The need to support localised approaches to promoting health and well-being was evident, as was the implication for policy and planning.

The evaluation has clearly demonstrated how the programme meets the Investing for Health objectives and the clear linkages with many areas of the policy. It is therefore particularly disappointing that the Grant Programme will not be repeated by DHSSPS.

Further information is available in a recently published Information Note (June 2005) from the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. www.communityfoundationni.org

Positive Steps – the Government's response to Investing Together: Report of the Task Force on Resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector

The Task Force on Resourcing the Community and Voluntary Sector was established by Government to bring forward recommendations to help ensure that the voluntary and community sector can continue to make a substantial contribution to the achievement of Government objectives and the well-being of the Northern Ireland community.

Positive Steps identifies a series of actions to help strengthen the relationship between the Government and the voluntary and community sector. The actions outline a significant agenda for change and investment, and an extra £23m is being made available over the next three years to help support some of this change.

Key actions include the promotion of a longer term (7-10 year) outcome focused approach to programmes that significantly involve the voluntary and community sector; the development of a Community Investment Fund to provide more strategic funding for the support of 'generic' community development activity; and a modernisation fund to promote modernization and change within the sector and strengthen the service delivery role of organisations. A further £15million is being made available over the next three years to support capital projects across Northern Ireland delivered through the voluntary and community sector.

In the context of service delivery, Positive Steps acknowledges that the voluntary and community sector bring particular advantages to the delivery of services. Barriers that hinder operation on a level playing field such as full overhead cost recovery should be removed. Quality standards for service delivery are also highlighted as a future pre-requisite for funding support. DSD intends to engage with the voluntary and community sector to explore how quality standards can be embedded in the business processes of organisations.

Other themes covered include crosscutting policy areas, Internal Governance, Management and Accountability, Relationship between

the government and the Voluntary and Community sector and Voluntary and Community Sector Support and Development Services.

The need to strengthen the regulation of charity law is recognized. Proposals for changing the regulation of charity law in Northern Ireland have been issued for consultation and include proposals to establish a register of charities and a Northern Ireland Charities Commission.

Copies of the document are available from **Stephen Graham** on **028 9082 9425** or from www.dsdni.gov.uk

Little Book Of Stuff Reprint

Due to the success of the Little Book of Stuff, Health Action Zone have ordered a reprint of a further 5000 copies.



The Little Book of Stuff is a directory for young people in North and West Belfast and covers a wide range of subjects from money to housing, learning, work, opportunities and experiences along with health, identity, the law and transport. It has something of interest for all young people.

The directory will be an essential guide to provide children and young people with access to the right information in an easy to use format.

If you have already placed an order this will be coming to you in the next few weeks. Otherwise contact the Health

Communications Manager appointed

The Health Action Zone has recently appointed Margery Magee as Communications Manager. Taking up post at the beginning of February, Margery joins HAZ with a wide range of experience in communications, campaigning and public affairs at a senior level in the voluntary sector.

Commenting on the new challenge she says " Although the post is part-time, it involves working with some of the most sensitive communications issues in health at the minute. HAZ programmes tackle issues of acute social disadvantage and it is vital that we get the message of the HAZ way of working in partnership, and the successes achieved, across to those involved inside and outside the organisation who can make a long term difference."

Apart from the usual rounds of events, publications and

media contact, major HAZ communications developments over the next few months will be around strategy and include the re-vamp of the HAZ website.



Website revamp

An increasingly important communication tool for HAZ is our website. Over the summer months the HAZ website will be reviewed, refreshed, and updated. This will result in greater availability of timely access to news of HAZ activities, policy implementation and programmes. If you would like your website link placed on the HAZ website just let us have your details.



North & West Belfast

The North and West Belfast Health Action Zone produces HAZNewz three times a year.

Our core HAZ team is:

Mary Black - HAZ Leader

Caroline Bloomfield - Community Development Worker

Luighseach McCann - Office Manager

Elaine McCarthy - Programme Co-ordinator

Margery Magee - Communications Manager

Mary O'Kane - Personal Secretary

GET IN TOUCH!

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If you are working with HAZ and want your story to be included in future editions, e-mail hazadmin@nwb.n-i.hns.uk