



Integrated Services for Children and Young People

Local Area Guide - **Greater Shankill**

Improving the **life chances** of children and young people

Who are we?

The Integrated Services for Children and Young People (Integrated Services) Programme works across Greater Shankill and West Belfast to improve the life chances of children and young people.

In Greater Shankill the Programme is managed by Greater Shankill Partnership working together with the Belfast Health Action Zone, Belfast Education and Library Board and the organisations based in the local community.

The Programme has been funded through the Department of Education by the Integrated Development Fund following the work of the Shankill and West Belfast Taskforces.

**All of us do not have equal talents,
but all of us should have an equal
opportunity to develop our talents.**

A needs based approach

A priority for the programme has been the engagement of local people, schools, organisations and their staff working on the ground in the Greater Shankill area which has experienced long-standing levels of deprivation. In order to identify local needs and agree appropriate interventions and inputs a Local Implementation Action Group (LIAG) was formed to agree the programme of work. The agreed proposals form the basis of a Service Level Agreement between Belfast Education and Library Board and Greater Shankill Partnership.

Basis of our work

In order to improve life chances the Integrated Services Programme will be focussing on all aspects of the lives of children and young people - their families and all of those who have influence on them – schools and the wider community. We will be taking an approach based on the life stages of a person.

Improving the **life chances** of children and young people

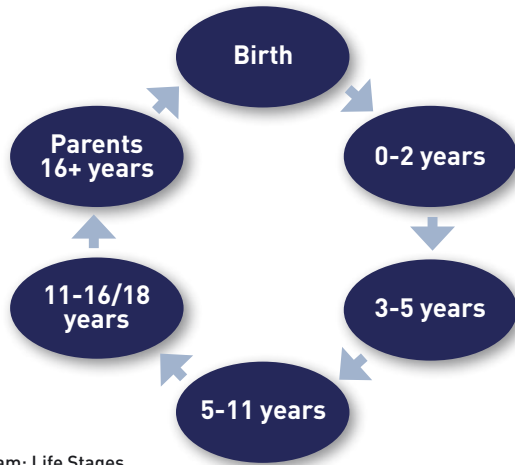


Diagram: Life Stages

In Greater Shankill we will focus on 3 themes:

**Family Support/Early Years +
Youth Development
Educational Aspiration**

Family Support/Early Years +

Engagement with very young children can have a lasting impact on social and educational development. Whether undertaken by a parent at home or by an early years professional in a nursery, early engagement can provide a head start that improves life chances right into adult life. For example, special learning needs can be identified earlier and appropriate support interventions put in place for both the child and the family.

Our focus will be, primarily, on preparation for parenthood, early years and the development of effective learning capacity in children and young people. We will be providing additional family support workers to work with children and parents in their homes, schools and other appropriate locations. Parents will be supported during transition periods (often the most stressful) in a child's life.

- Family Support Workers
- Speech and Language Support
- Early Years Development
- Antenatal Support Workers

Improving the **life chances** of children and young people

Youth Development

Our focus within Youth Development is to work collectively to celebrate the achievements of young people, to support them in their progression into adult life and to develop pathways for them to learn, grow and fulfil their potential.

Eight Apprentice Youth and Community Workers (Apprentices) will undergo training to develop their own capacity in youth and community work and will develop programmes to address the needs of young people in the area. The Apprentices will be supporting, and be supported by, youth and community organisations throughout the Greater Shankill and are hosted by:

- Belfast Community Sports Development Network
- FASA (Forum for Action on Substance Abuse and Suicide Awareness)
- Glencairn Youth Initiative
- Hammer Youth Club
- Shankill Area Project.



Integrated Services Bursary Awards 2009

Bursaries have been established to enable young people to access progression routes and take advantage of life chances and enhance employability.

Our Youth Counsellors work in a therapeutic way with young people who are coping with a range of issues. This service is provided in partnership with FASA and is supported by additional sessional counsellors, walk-in access and holistic therapies to support easy access and engagement for young people.

Improving the **life chances** of children and young people

Educational Aspiration

The Educational Aspirations work programme aims to get local schools, agencies, community organisations, businesses, parents and the wider community working together to get behind local young people to support them to fulfil their educational potential and develop their life chances.

The programme will focus on a number of actions that aim to

- Broaden horizons and build the self esteem and aspirations of young people
- Provide earlier careers information, advice and guidance to local young people, and improve links between education and the world of work.
- Support parents, so they can better help their children take up opportunities and make positive informed choices.
- Campaign to raise the value placed on learning and education in the Greater Shankill Community.

In particular, Key Stage 3 Advisors will work with the Boys and Girls Model Schools to provide early access to careers advice for young people, develop career pathways and support existing careers programmes.

A Community Based Learning Advisor will also be employed to engage with parents and other key target groups in the community, to identify and develop suitable learning pathways in partnership with a range of local providers.

A number of other supporting interventions, including 'Shankill – Celebrate Learning' and Easter/Summer School activities will also be developed through the Integrated Services Programme to help raise the profile, status and value of learning in the Greater Shankill area.

Raising aspirations

Fulfilling potential

Accessing opportunities

Improving the **life chances** of children and young people

Integrating Services

Families and young people can have complex needs and are often in contact with a number of different agencies. We believe that better integration of services will lead to better outcomes for children, families and young people.

In order to achieve this aim we will be working to develop effective integration across the full range of children's and young people's services in the area – everyone working better together.

Ultimately services will be better targeted at those who need them most, there will be less duplication of resources, families and children will be better able to access services and those facing particular obstacles will be supported to overcome them, so enabling all of our young people to better fulfil their potential.

- **Every child matters** •
- **Every child learns** •
- **Every child succeeds** •



Contact us:

Integrated Services for Children and Young People
Greater Shankill Partnership
Spectrum Centre
331-333 Shankill Road
Belfast
BT13 3AA
T: (028) 9031 1455

