Parenting Support Champions

8th Dec. 2016

Subtitle
Parenting Support Champions!

Origins of the Idea!
Review of Investing in Parents++++
Seeing the concept in action in Durham.
Part of a Wider Programme in Tusla to develop Prevention, Partnership and Family Support:

**Prevention, Partnership and Family Support**

- **Area Based Approach & the Meitheal National Practice Model**
- **Alternative Care Strategy**

**Early identification of need and help-provision to children and families across the continuum of care**

**Cover all of Tusla’s work**

- **Child and Youth Participation**
- **Parenting**
- **Hidden Harm**
- **Commissioning**
- **Public Awareness**
‘Supporting Parenting Work-Stream – Aims

- Objective 1 of Tusla’s Corporate Plan
  Tusla seeks to improve the quality and focus of the delivery of services for children and families by supporting parents through ‘active interventions, cross-sectoral activities and an integrated service delivery model’.

- Parenting Support Strategy: Parent Participation; Parent Support Champions; 50 Key Messages; Increase in evidence-based and evidence-informed approaches to supporting parenting; Area-based approach.
‘Supporting Parenting Strategy
Work-Stream – Aims

• Provision of high quality supports and services to children and their families at the earliest opportunity across all levels of need. Evidence-Informed and Evidence-based!

• Working in partnership is a very important aspect of this work.
  – ‘no wrong door’ for parents
  – all families in their locality receive easily accessible support, appropriate to meet their identified needs.
Parenting Support Champions!
Policy Context?

In the Role because of:

• Skill-base
• Significant Expertise & Experience!
• Broad range of stakeholder organisations
PSCs - Tusla’s Vision

- That good parenting knowledge becomes common knowledge.
- That Tusla’s key messages on parenting start to filter through mainstream discourse.
- The key messages on parenting are made available to parents without them needing to actively seek the information.
- That all parents know how and where to access the support and guidance they need within their local areas.
- That PSCs become known as people in their areas who can offer advice and guidance on parenting, they become the ‘go to’ people.
PSC – The Role

- **To promote parenting**, family well being and Tusla’s Parenting Support Strategy, within their area – both geographic and practice.

- **To find local opportunities** to develop approaches to supporting parenting and to disseminate the Key Messages e.g links to CYPSCs, Steering Groups under CYPSCs, CFSNs. PSCs as key voices at different tables.
Parenting Support Champions: Our Commitments to You!
Parenting Support Champions: Our Commitments to You!

Regional Learning Groups - Support you to...

• Utilise the **Key Messages in Practice.**

• **Develop the language** to bring the messages to ‘hard to reach’ parents and the wider public - Role of new media.

• Use the **Parent Participation Toolkit.**

• **Play your Advocacy role** as PSC and examine how that role can be developed.

• **Utilise the Prevention, Partnership and Family Support structures** within Tusla to support the development of the role.
Other components of Supporting Parenting Work-stream that we need your support with:

• **Parent Participation**: Use of the Parent Participation Toolkit and acting as expert guides and connectors.

• **Understanding best practice examples** of Supporting Parenting and bringing that information to practice and planning communities & working with others to make that information available.

• **Gap analysis on new communities** and new messaging required.

• **Your input to National Conferences** on Supporting Parenting 2017 & 2018.

• Your support in dissemination and development of the **50 Key Messages**.

• **Tusla looking for assistance and support** in developing new evidence-based approaches to supporting parents across the continuum care.
Clear Response Pathways along the Continuum of Need

Clear thresholds for child protection intervention, for transfer to/from alternative care, for closing cases, for diverting cases to other agencies, to area based approaches, etc. Clear and effective pathways through the system (end-to-end)

Needs are met

Low Prevention

Medium to High Prevention

High Prevention

continuum of help / support required by the child

NEED

THRESHOLD
Reasonable Grounds for Concern
Determined by Mandated Persons/ Other Referrer

NEED- HARM

THRESHOLD
Welfare or Protection Response
Tusla Determined via Initial Assessment, or subsequent assessment

HARM

THRESHOLD
Significant Harm requiring alternative care
Tusla Determined via Initial Assessment or subsequent assessment

Tusla Response Pathways

Tusla as the Corporate Parent

Alternative Care

Supporting Strategies

Area Based Approach Strategy & PPFS

CP&W Strategy

PPFS Parenting & Participation Strategy

Universal Services

Child & Family Services (Area-Based Approach)

Focus on Needs & Strengths, Family Led, Voluntary

Family Support Networks

Meitheal

Family Resource Centres (part funded by Tusla)

Child Welfare Intervention

Multi-Agency Response led by Tusla or funded partner and co-produced with child, family and network

Concerns about harm but willingness and capacity to change is evident

Child Welfare Intervention

Child Protection Intervention

Multi-Agency Response
Concerns about serious harm and parents appear not willing/motivated. Tusla led and co-produced with family network.

Garda investigation

Child Protection Intervention

AfterCare (18-21yrs)
Tusla’s Early Intervention and Prevention System:

- 17 Areas: 17 Area Managers: 17 Senior Managers for PP&FS & new Senior Coordinator and Coordinator roles.
- Steering Committees, linked to Children & Young People Services Committees (Multiple stakeholders)
- Each of the 17 areas divided into local Child & Family Support Networks, with Coordinators (Multiple stakeholders)
- New National Practice Model, Meitheal for early identification of need and help-provision at locality level: Team Around the Child and Lead Practitioner (Multiple stakeholders)
Parenting Support Making a Difference and your contribution

In 2017 effecting:

• A shift to evidence-informed and evidence-based practice.
• To Parents being supported to keep children safely at home.
• To Improved outcomes for children and parents at all levels of need.