



Press Release 12th September 2018

Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme is launching its **“Learning Together” Report**. A collaboration between UCC, Young Knocknaheeny and all key stakeholder, the Report evaluates and documents the Young Knocknaheeny Programme from January 2015 to December 2017.

The launch will take place at on **Friday 14th September from 11 to 2pm in St. Peter’s, North Main Street, Cork City**

The Lord Mayor of Cork City, Cllr. Mick Finn will give the opening address;

Dr. Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children will officially launch the report and give a launch address;

Dr. Margaret Curtin, UCC, will present the key finding and learnings;

Dr Holly Brophy-Herb, Professor of Child Development and Family Studies at Michigan State University, will provide the keynote address “Building Community Capacity to Utilize Infant Mental Health Based Approaches”

An accumulated 5,500 children and families and nearly 500 staff of over 40 organisations have been involved with and benefited from the Young Knocknaheeny Programme in the 3 years from the beginning of 2015 to the end of 2016. **To represent that children and their parents and staff of Hollyhill Knocknaheeny Family Centre will make a presentation to The Ombudsman for Children and Dr. Niall Muldoon and meet with the Lord Mayor of Cork City Cllr Mick Finn.**

Over 100 people have confirmed their attendance on the day including public representatives, statutory and voluntary and community services, and families from the Young Knocknaheeny community area.

The primary reason for the “Learning Together” Report is to be transparently accountable: firstly, to the children and parents who have worked with YK; secondly the Consortium members, lead agency NICHE (NICHE Community Health Initiative Cork CLG), partners and collaborators in Early Years centres, primary schools, community services, Tusla, and the HSE; thirdly to our funders, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Atlantic Philanthropies; and finally to the Centre for Effective Services which provided programme

support to the ABC Programme nationally, and Pobal which managed the funding of the ABC Programme nationally.

The second reason for the report is to provide insights and understanding of the implementation process for each of the activities that were undertaken and the experience of implementation by all those involved. The third reason for the report is to demonstrate the evolution of the programme in the 3 years and to recognize achievements, learnings and recommendations for future developments.

The purpose of the launch event is to bring together all those involved in the programme to acknowledge their contribution and participation; To shine some light on innovative prevention and early intervention practice taking place in Cork across services and communities; To further focus attention on the knowledge base and actions required to ensure that all children have the best start in life for the benefit of their entire life, in their relationships, learning, health and wellbeing.

Katherine Harford, Manager of Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme says she is honoured to host this event for all the people involved in the programme. “In this document we have had our work recorded and analysed. It has had input from families, as well as staff of children services from education, family support, health and community support.

What really matters to children in terms of their development, is the quality of their first relationships, with their parents and with other key people in their lives such as their wider family, early childhood educators, public health nurses and teachers. With this in mind, Young Knocknaheeny took a relational approach to improving outcomes for children and worked with literally hundreds of people to bring about change to the way we work with children and families and with one another. **We learned together what it takes to grow a prevention and early intervention programme in a community for a whole community.**

Taking best evidence and the science of early childhood development, this report demonstrates and captures real transformation in parent relationships, early childhood education provision, reflective practice skills of health and family support practitioners and strategies for schools in supporting social and emotional wellbeing. **Though we have still much work to do and the report makes several recommendations, we believe that over time, it will become evident that community based prevention and early intervention is the best mechanism for improving the lives of all children. This work must grow into order to support the relationships and environments of all children which in turn develops their social, emotional and wellbeing development, right from the start of their lives, providing strong foundations for all of their lives.”**

Information on Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme

Young Knocknaheeny (YK) is a community-based prevention and early intervention programme, predominantly working across four areas in the north of Cork city; Knocknaheeny, Hollyhill, Gurranabraher, and Churchfield.

Young Knocknaheeny Programme (YK) aims to get every child's life off to the best possible start by:

- Respectfully enhance skills and early childhood development knowledge of all parents, practitioners and services
- Strengthen and enhance all relationships and environments that are important to every child's early development
- Embed systems and community change to support early childhood development and address childhood poverty

Aligned to Better Outcomes Brighter Futures, YK is part of the national Area Based Childhood Programme (ABC) addressing areas of: Child Health & Development; Children's Learning; Parenting and Integrated Service Delivery through processes which are:

- area-based, interagency and partnership working in children's services across sectors and disciplines;
- prevention, early intervention and evidence based practice and outcomes tracking;
- holistic development of children;
- operating in a context of childhood disadvantage with a progressive universalist approach;
- multi-system/multi-stage interventions.

The YK Programme was developed by a group of practitioners and service managers from 2011, which formally came together as a Consortium in 2014. The YK Management Group is a subgroup of the Consortium. NICHE Health Project is the lead agency.

Currently, YK ABC is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Atlantic Philanthropies and is programme managed by Pobal and CES.

The YK Programme is delivered through 4 locally designed, interconnected strategies (see below), underpinned by an Infant Mental Health (IMH) Framework and supported by ongoing evaluation and research.

All YK programmes and approaches are evidenced based, implemented to be culturally appropriate, child centred, and needs led. They are respectful and strengths based.

Programmes are offered at a universal service level through existing services (such as schools and pre-schools, PHN developmental checks), or through self-referral and community referrals, through to a targeted approach in consultation with interagency partner organisations.

Strategy1: Infant Health and Wellbeing.

To develop the necessary knowledge, skills, practice and services to support optimal physical, social and emotional development in the pre-birth to three years period of a baby's and child's development. Supporting early relationships development within the context of family and community is a key component of this strategy. The Infant Health and Wellbeing Strategy is delivered through the YK interdisciplinary team in partnership with wider interagency partner organisations

Strategy 2: Speech, Language and Literacy.

Provide universal capacity building early intervention, prevention and early language promotion for parents, caregivers and educators of infants and children: Babbling Babies and a direct service within the 0-3 interdisciplinary IMH home visitation model and Kidscope Interdisciplinary referrals; the provision of evidence based training and coaching capacity building skills to early years and primary schools. Training and guidance to the wider YK team members, and consultations right across the community and teachings on graduate and postgraduate programmes. Clinical Governance / Supervision provided by HSE Cork North Speech and Language Department.

Strategy 3: Early Years Care and Education.

Co-ordinated by Barnardos, and guided by the Early Years Co-ordinators Group, is a supported quality improvement strategy for a community of 7 Preschools, Creches and Early Starts. The whole strategy is aligned to the National Early Years curriculum and quality frameworks of Aistear and Soilta.

Strategy 4: Prosocial Behaviour and Self-Regulation.

To promote and develop positive parent-child, teacher-child relationships and to assist in the promotion of pro-social behaviour and self-regulation. This strategy is implemented through the Incredible Years suite of programmes through a whole community /whole school approach that is co-ordinated by Le Cheile School Completion Programme.

Further Information For press enquiries please contact admin.ykabc@nichonline.ie / Tel 021 4300135. To view the Report including recommendations and findings it will be available in full from 11am 14th September 2018 from www.youngknocknaheeny/resources.

To follow the event on the day please follow twitter #learningtogether and @youngknockabc Photographs from the day are being taken and circulated by Claire Keogh

