

**The Bridge
Child and Family Centre
Report 2015**



Introduction

Across the States of Jersey and the community and voluntary sector there is a range of service provision for children young people and families. However, early findings from the newly launched 1001 Critical Days Task Force indicate that the offer of services, information and support is lacking in co-ordination, evaluation, consistency and accessibility which creates barriers for some families and means that not all children and families have equality of opportunity. Included in this report is a snap shot of what all teams within the Bridge are aiming to work on in 2016 to address issues of inclusion, sustainability and partnership working.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Tumelty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Patricia Tumelty | Coordinator of Services for Families | The Bridge

Feedback from Agencies

The following is feedback from individual agencies with specific examples of their input to creating inclusive, sustainable partnership working as well as their focus for 2016.

Brighter Futures

Brighter Futures Charity continues to develop the range of programmes to ensure that we have a varied choice to accommodate the needs of our clients. The collective name for these programmes is called 'The Journey to Wellbeing', and we focus on three areas; relationships, education and wellbeing, using research and evidence based programmes to continually monitor and evaluate the services we offer.

In 2015, whilst continuing to develop links within the island through ongoing multi agency working, we experienced an increase in referrals to Brighter Futures. A number of new agencies became aware of the work we do and have sign-posted clients to Brighter Futures.

Many of the clients who access Brighter Futures want to work on personal areas such as building their confidence and self-esteem through the programmes available. In 2015 a group of parents who had completed their Journey to Wellbeing took this aspect a step further. They created a Drama Group of 16 parents in partnership with Daniel Austin, and produced a performance to a packed audience at The Art Centre called

'What do we do with all our children?' This was a phenomenal success, as the parents shared their life stories with the audience, and Brighter Futures are so proud of these ladies. They are currently preparing another performance to be performed in 2016 called 'I'd rather not know'.

In 2016 we want to develop a new partnership that has been created between ourselves and Advance to Work, which is administered by the Back to Work schemes as part of Social Security. Many of our clients are due to commence employment in the near future and we are delighted to have developed this link which enables us to share information to ensure that we are supporting our clients to achieve the best outcome for them and their families.

Careers Jersey

I think the thing that we are proud of in 2015 is the involvement we have had with the Bridge and the Making Changing Programme, especially the follow up appointments we have had as a result of the overview we gave. One thing we would like to focus on in 2016 is our continued involvement with the Bridge and the fact we will still be available if anyone would like a 1:1 careers appointments with an Adviser.

Family Nursing & Home Care

Family Nursing and Home Care, child and family division, are proud of the joint working projects with many services, it is difficult to pick just one. However in terms of Inclusion, Partnership and Sustainability we are proud of the joint working with JCCT lead assisted nursery place scheme. A named Health Visitor attends all meetings and offers support and specialist knowledge to ensure a focus upon the child as well as the family.

Looking to the future and 2016, we are hoping to lead the way with breastfeeding advice and support for all mothers, and are hoping to engage all services at The Bridge to enable an inclusive and sustainable service.

Friends of the Bridge

Throughout 2015 Friends of The Bridge are proud to have worked in partnership with Brighter Futures in a number of ways. The Journey to Well Being Nursery Placement Scheme has been developed with financial support from Help a Jersey Child and the first tranche of funding has been allocated on the recommendation of Brighter Futures keyworkers to a number of their clients' children. The aim of the scheme is to assist families in need of particular support and feedback will be collected to assess the impact of the scheme. Secondly Friends of The Bridge supported the drama group comprising principally of Brighter Futures clients and staff who after much hard work and many rehearsals presented a piece of theatre at the Jersey Arts Centre in March based on research into the interactions of parents with a wide range of professionals. This proved to be a moving performance for the capacity audience and it importantly showed what can be achieved by collaboration, determination and a wonderful team spirit among the cast. These are just two examples of how Friends of The Bridge continue to support the work of the centre in addition to the valuable assistance given by our volunteers whose reliability and dedication is greatly appreciated.

In 2016 Friends of The Bridge hope to pursue the aim of achieving accreditation for the centre's volunteering scheme. This focus will ensure that best practice is followed in all areas of volunteer recruitment, development and retention.

Jersey Child Care Trust

The Jersey Child Care Trust's work continues to benefit from being co-located with the many services that families and childcare practitioners access. Our stakeholders have experienced a multi-agency approach to training and development with JCCT bursaries available, easier access to a range of information and a much smoother, joined up referral and case management of services for families.

We are particularly proud to have delivered over 7,000 hours of individualised support for children with special educational needs and disabilities in their private nurseries in 2015. Being based at the Bridge has enabled the support, steer and genuine partnership of agencies and roles situated in as well as outside of the Bridge.

In 2016 the JCCT is going to particularly focus upon communication. With its projects measured against clear outcomes for families and children the JCCT will be focussed on several communication projects including a new JCCT website and a parent's focus group series. The aim is to improve understanding about what the JCCT does as well as increase awareness of how to access its services for all stakeholders.

Midwives

The Bridge Midwifery team now has 9 members and are proud of the depth and range of midwifery care we are now able to provide.

Inclusion - we now have a service users group and a homebirth group of parents who offer to discuss their experiences with other parents and provide us with insight into our service.

Partnership - for the 1st time we are working with midwifery students alongside Chester University and our colleagues in the hospital maternity unit.

Sustainability - we are particularly proud to have increased the home birth rate year on year. It is now over 3% and early indications are that it will increase again this year.

This year we aim to move all low risk antenatal care into the primary care setting. Our involvement with "Early Years" and 1001 Critical Days will focus our care towards improving multidisciplinary liaison for the most vulnerable families.

Parenting Support Services

Inclusion - ongoing work to develop and identify opportunities to cultivate family services knowledge and understanding when working and including families (Services for Families plan).

This year 8 practitioners qualified and received their certificate in “Working With Parents” City and Guilds level 3- the new cohort consists of a further 9 professionals.

Partnership - Parenting Support Services works together with Brighter Futures targeted provision to provide seamless services for families and young people working at different levels of need.

Criteria for Success - Parenting Support Services and Brighter Futures develop together to meet the needs of families delivering services that are equitably to the whole island community.

Key Indicators of Success - parents are evidenced moving between services at various times, this could be at the beginning, during, or end of their journey.

Parenting Support Services statistics show clients using this service have doubled since last year’s annual report.

Sustainability - we continue to review Parenting Support Services to ensure it is needs-led, efficient, accountable and

co-ordinated. This is evidenced through up to date research on effect and quality of service, using evaluation.

Parenting Support Services

Parent Partnership Officer:

In 2015 Parenting Support Service introduced NAS EarlyBird Parent Programme to Jersey for the first time. I am very proud to be part of the set up and delivery of this programme as it fills a definite gap in parent/carer support. The feedback from parents and professionals has been very positive with a noted difference in parent confidence of children under the age of three attending mainstream and specialist provisions for the first time. The programme requires commitment and partnership work between parents, Education, Health and Brighter Futures. Effective partnership between the agencies involved has maximised the benefit of the programme for parents/ carers. Brighter Futures and Parenting Support Services are planning a January 2016 programme for up to six families.

In 2016 my focus will be on developing information materials for parents/ carers along with Parenting Support Services and my new colleagues in the Parent Partnership Team based in Health. Collaboration between Education and Health will sustain quality of information for parents/ carers.

Speech and Language

2015 has been another busy year for Speech and Language Therapy. We have continued to work in partnership with a variety of agencies in the Bridge such as:

JCCT – supporting children and families through the Inclusion Project, as well as providing signing training for the Early Years sector

Health Visitors and Community Nursery Nurses – supporting families through the Early Help approach. FN&HC are also the agency who refer most children to our Department

Brighter Futures – consistent liaison with the staff to provide appropriate services for children and families with language delay. Speech and Language Therapy continue to provide training to BF staff

Parenting – support with the Working with Parents qualification. Referral of families to universal services as well as 1:1 sessions as appropriate

In 2016 we aim to collect information from our services users about their experience of the Speech and Language Therapy Department.



Contact Details

Address:

The Bridge
Le Geyt Road
St Saviour
JE2 7NT

Telephone:

(01534) 449152

Email:

p.tumelty@gov.je
e.eversfield@gov.je