

Expansion into Ardboe

On enquiry we have discovered that there are premises which are currently owned by Ardboe Community Group. There is an established Parent and Toddler Group, Playgroup and Afterschools Club. The training room is used most mornings to run outreach courses from East Tyrone College of Further and Higher Education – these include painting classes, IT, soft furnishings etc. This would suggest that we need to deliver service in the afternoons (we need to determine whether another room is available for a supporting crèche) A meeting has been arranged with representatives of the Community Group for Wednesday 14th June 2006. The Group will give us access to a recent Community Audit/Survey, will show us around their premises and will discuss possibilities of working together. Until such time as community consultation is undertaken we would suggest that the attached expansion plan be viewed as a draft proposal. It will doubtless change to meet the needs of the community.

The above meeting has now taken place. Suitable office premises have been identified and rooms for delivery of training and crèche have also been sourced. The Community Group are very keen to work with us and are very supportive of the Project. A Fun Day has been arranged for the beginning of September to raise the profile of the Project and to carry out some initial consultation with the community. We are hopeful that a gradual introduction of service into this area and a gradual adaptation of current service in Cookstown will provide for a smooth transition period with the minimum of fuss.

Draft Proposal

We would propose to offer the following courses phasing service in gradually:-

- Baby Massage
- Hanen “You make the difference” or Handling Children’s Behaviour
- Stay & Play and Health Promotion Talks.
- Baby Yoga

Staff are aware that in order to deliver service in Ardboe, they will have to reduce workload elsewhere. This will be monitored carefully to ensure core services in our current area are not affected and that an equitable service is delivered across the 4 wards. Staff are hopeful that the home visiting will not be impacted upon too much as they see this as vital – particularly for those families who are hard to reach / who find engagement difficult. Surestart can have such, a positive impact upon these families and we are mindful not to lose this aspect of the Project.

The financial implications will also have to be monitored carefully in order to ensure we do not exceed spend especially in the areas of programme costs and travel. A tentative calculation is attached for your information and also to provide us with some basis from which to start.

	Estimated Cost
Venue Costs for 2 hours	£15 x 2 = £30
Crèche costs for 3 hours	3 workers x 3hrs x £7.50 = £67.50
Travel costs	£24
Increased insurance cover	unknown
Additional toys / equipment	unknown
Administrative support	unknown

TOTAL = £121.50 per course

4 courses per week = £486 x 40 weeks per year = £19440

These estimates are conservative and do not include increased insurance cover, additional toys or administrative support. Also other travel for home visits is not included or expenses incurred through purchase of safety equipment and toy library. This will obviously necessitate redeployment of money already allocated in our 2006 – 2007 budget and work will begin on a new budget as soon as the programme for the area is drafted (probably after the consultation in September 06)

The following would prove more problematic to deliver but are not insurmountable and we will develop these services as and when appropriate for the Ardboe Community and feasible for our staff. In the meantime those families from Ardboe will be encouraged to access our current services in Cookstown and transport will be provided where necessary.

- Breast Feeding Support Group will depend upon numbers and availability of staff to deliver.
- Ante Natal Support Group will depend upon numbers and availability of staff to deliver.
- Aqua Baby Yoga must be delivered in the pool which is located in Cookstown Leisure Centre. It is already heavily over subscribed and has a substantial waiting list. It has been suggested we deliver more than one class a week if possible.
- Cook It is delivered from our premises in 13 Milburn Park where there is a sizeable kitchen. There may not be suitable premises in Ardboe, and this also depends upon staff availability.

We have planned a team building day over the summer of 2006 in order to investigate implications for the team and how best we can redeploy resources to provide a fluid and equitable service. With only 3 outreach support workers (one of whom cannot drive) we will look at the possibility of recruiting and training volunteers to provide additional home support across the 4 wards. This will have the added advantage for empowering the local community and developing a peer support service which should prove more accessible to those in need while increasing self esteem in those who volunteer – a possible stepping stone to employment.

Other areas that will need to be fine tuned are the Safety Equipment Scheme, the Toy Library and access to transport. However we are confident that with the support of the local community we will be able to find acceptable solutions with limited impact upon current users.

To summarize, this expansion clearly presents our current service with a number of challenges. However, staff are very positive and are looking forward to the opportunity of introducing Surestart to new families. We know the positive impact Surestart can have on families and are happy that we can now take our service to additional children.