

Supporting Parents to Protect Children:

13th December

**Start Strong Conference - "The Next
Six Years: The First Six Years".**

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Family Support: HSE**

New HSE Supporting Parents Strategy imminent:
**Investing in Families:
Strengthening Parents to
Improve Outcomes for Children:**

Built on:

- ❑ Supporting Parents across the HSE: An evidence-informed Resource (2010).
- ❑ A guide to evidence-informed Parent-Support Programmes HSE (2010).
- ❑ Child Protection and Welfare Practice Handbook (2011).

Investing in Families: Strengthening Parents to Improve Outcomes for Children:

Strategy statement:

Investing in all families

- To strengthen parents
- To improve outcomes for children
- Is core business for the HSE.

The majority of parents want to do a good job in parenting their children.

The continuum of care for supporting parents: Progressive Universalism?

Level 1 : Prevention

Investing in the early years can combat both social and economic disadvantage in later life. Providing targeted resources within a universal platform can serve to reduce the chances of economic disadvantage in later life.

Level 2: Early Intervention

Top-up parenting and education for families in need of help and advice can augment their parenting capacity.

Level 3: Targeted

Where there are issues of parenting capacity, which leave children at risk, more direct and mandated interventions are required (Practice Handbook (2011)).

Level 4: Acute Targeted

Corporate Parenting: All children & Young People in the care of the state to be given the best start in life possible.

The continuum of care for supporting parents: Progressive Universalism?

- Parents will move up and down the continuum of need.**
- Most parents will only need support at the universal level.**
- Some parents may need additional information and supports.**
- Some parents will need more targeted support and a few parents may require intensive or specialist support (mandated?) to ensure that their children are safe and achieve their full potential.**

Key Messages of the Strategy:

- ❑ Investing in services that support parents improves outcomes for all children.**
- ❑ Supporting Parents has a long-term impact on reducing the numbers of children requiring CP services.**
- ❑ Investing early (in years and in the problem) helps to combat both economic and social disadvantage in later life.**
- ❑ Services commissioned should be evidence-based and evidence-informed.**
- ❑ Working in partnership with parents and other agencies is important.**
- ❑ Parent Support is integral to FS and C&F Services.**

National Approach:

Issues it will address? Key Messages
for practitioners: Supporting Parents
24/7:

Supporting Parenting across a child's life-cycle

- **Preparing for and becoming a Parent**
- **Birth to 5 years**
- **6-12 years** --
- **13 to 18 years**

General Messages

HSE Direct Parenting Role and Different Contexts

National Approach: Issues it will address? Key Actions proposed in the Strategy?

Dissemination and input to new Service Delivery Model New Agency.

Local Needs analysis Parenting Support- Development of a local commissioning strategy and Parenting Support Plan, applying national criteria for parenting support services. Move towards more evidence-based programmes and evidence-informed practice.

Disseminate Strengthening Parents messages.

Develop Parenting Support Pathways in the FS Networks/Hubs.

Parental engagement.

Re-orientate service provision to preventative work: Providing targeted resources within a universal platform.

Emphasise co-parenting to reduce numbers of children in care.

HSE Strategy: Strengthening Parents to improve outcomes for children: What is achievable?

Reduced resources placing more emphasis on What Works- Good Practice-Promising Practice – Emerging Practice?

Targeting resources within universal platforms?

Providing a continuum of care at community level from SP at risk to step-down.

HSE Strategy: Strengthening Parents to improve outcomes for children: Implementation Challenges?

What Works?

**Change in Practice for
professionals-adopting
Supporting Parents approaches
to the work.**

**Continuum of care V crisis
intervention.**

HSE Strategy: Strengthening Parents to improve outcomes for children: National Children's Strategy messages?

The majority of parents want to do a good job. Re-iterate a commitment to supporting parents across a continuum of care (early in the problem and early in the life of the child). Target resources within universal platforms?

Issues of parental capacity, which place children at risk, may need more mandated interventions + step-down interventions to monitor and maintain improvements.

HSE Strategy: Strengthening Parents to improve outcomes for children: Impact on Children and Parents?

Measures:

- No. and % of Children & Families referred to and in receipt of a FS Service. Impact on children?
- No. of referrals of child abuse.
- No. and % of children referred for whom Supervision Order is granted in the Reporting Period.
- The No. and % of children in care by care type:
 - Children's Residential Centre
 - Foster Care
 - Foster Care with relatives.