Supporting Parents to Protect Children:

13th December

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

Dr Aisling Gillen, National Specialist Family Support: HSE
New HSE Supporting Parents Strategy imminent:
Investing in Families:
Strengthening Parents to Improve Outcomes for Children:

Built on:
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.
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.
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.

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.