

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN



2005-2008

Annual Review
April 2007

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FOREWORD

As Chair of the Western Area Children and Young People's Committee, I am pleased to present the second Annual Review of the 2005-2008 Children's Services Plan.

The Report is presented at a time of great uncertainty about Children's Services Planning and its place within the re-organised structures following the Review of Public Administration. In this Report, we have outlined a summary of the joint proposal prepared by the four Area Children and Young People's Committees which aims to strengthen the existing processes to achieve better outcomes for children and young people. The concept of partnership and collaborative working toward better outcomes remains a key focus and has been delivered through the Western Area Children and Young People's Committee, a range of Sub Committees addressing the needs of specific groups of vulnerable children and through the newly developed Locality Action Groups in each current District Council area. The latter development provides an innovative approach to partnerships at local level across all sectors which seeks to identify local needs, priorities and solutions. It is hoped that this pilot can be extended to link with future planning and commissioning structures which will impact on the well-being of families and children.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the members of the Children & Young People's Committee, Sub Committees and Locality Action Groups for their energy and commitment to making life better for the children of this area.

Dominic Burke

Western Area Children & Young Peoples Committee

WACYPC Members

Mr Dominic Burke, WHSSB

Mr Eamon McTernan, WHSSB

Mr Gerry Conway, WHSSB

Mrs Pauline Leeson, Children in NI

Ms Betty Feeney, RCD

Mr John Doherty, FHSST

Ms Winnie O'Grady, Derry Travellers Support Network

Ms Marie McGale, MENCAP

Mr Vincent McCauley, Westcare Business Services

Mr Artie O'Neill, Youth Justice Agency

Ms Clionagh Boyle, Derry Children's Commission

Mr Sean Mackie, NIHE

Mr John O'Kane, PBNI

Ms Kate Thompson, SLT

Mrs Brenda Macqueen, Dry Arch Centre

Ms Siobhan McIntyre, WHSSB

Mr Gary Matthewson, Principal, Holy Family Primary School

Ms Marie Kavanagh, Gingerbread

Ms Liz Cuddy, Extern

Insp Cindy Mackie, PSNI

Vacancy, WELB

The Western Area Children and Young People's Committee welcomes comments, views, opinions about the 2006 Review of the Children's Services Plan.

If you wish to convey your views about:

- Content
- How the information is laid out
- What is missing?
- Ideas for further development
- Criticism
- How the plan can be improved

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The Children's Services Plan as well as a range of other planning documents and information about need and supply in respect of services for children and young people in the West, is available in the Western Area Children and Young People's Committee Website at:

www.wacy-pc.org

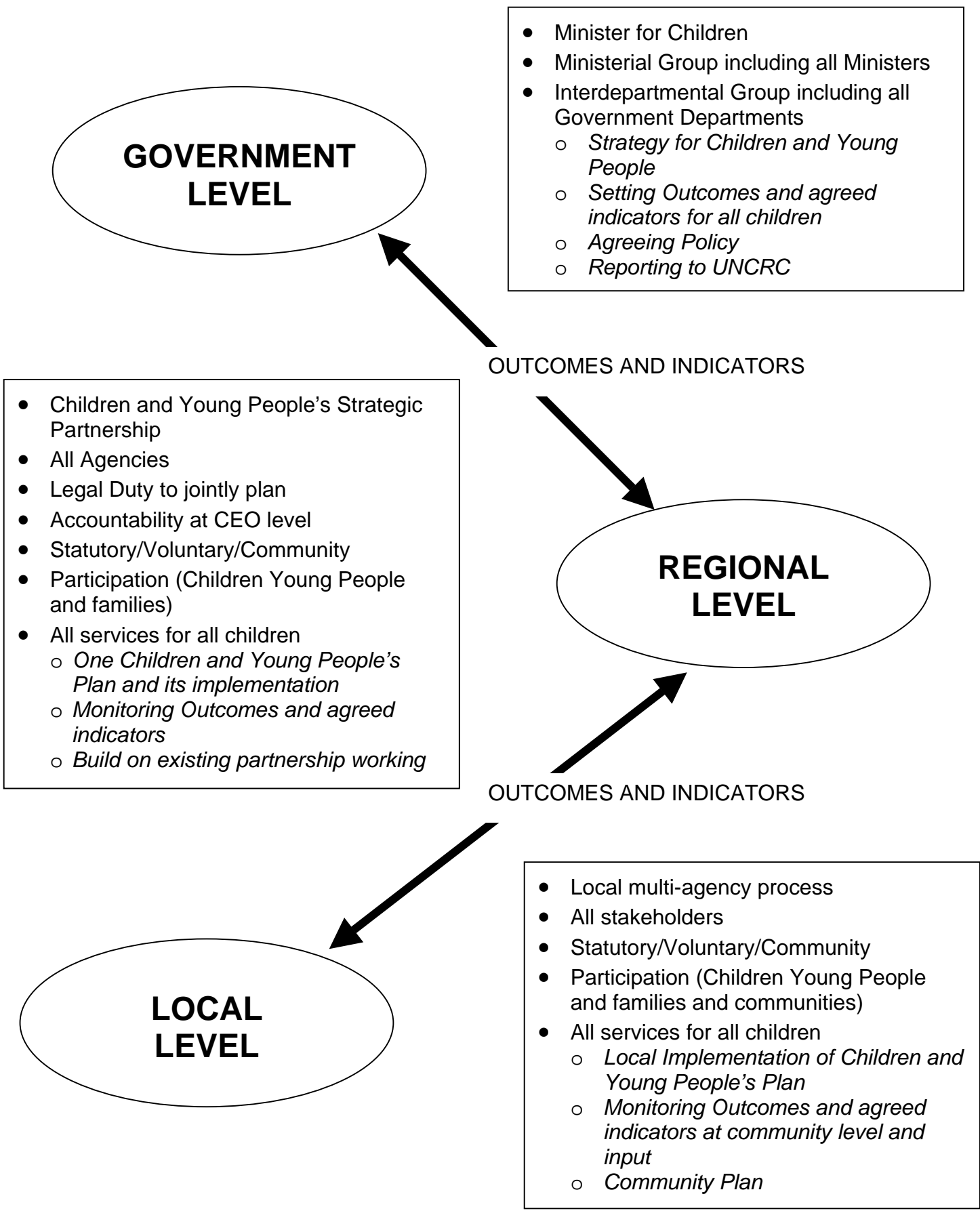
1 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

1.1 The second year of this Children's Services Plan was characterised by further developments in the Review of Public Administration and in the policy environment relating to children and young people.

1.2 The Review of Public Administration has moved progressively in the Health and Social Care field toward the establishment of 5 Trusts, operational from April 2007. Initial steps were taken during this period to establish the new Regional Health & Social Care Authority with a substructure of Local Commissioning Groups. Developments within Education and Local Councils are expected to follow on a phased basis.

1.3 The position of Children's Services Planning as a multi agency mechanism for planning and commissioning within a reorganised Public Service structure has required much consideration and debate. The four Area Children and Young People's Committee prepared a joint proposal document to address the issue. The key recommendations aimed to strengthen the existing processes which have been developed to achieve better outcomes for children and young people. The following paragraphs and diagram describe the main points. A more detailed paper is available.

- There is a need for coordinated strategy and policy at Government level with accountable linkage and coordinated planning and delivery at Regional and Local levels.
- This accountability and associated performance measurement can be realized by the implementation of the Strategy for Children and Young People with associated Outcomes and Indicators and the setting up of a Ministerial Group led by the Minister for Children and the Inter-Departmental Group.
- At a Regional level there should be a Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership with accountability at CEO level. In addition a statutory duty should be placed on all agencies to produce together one Children and Young People's Plan. The plan would cover all services for all children based on the monitoring of indicators of progress towards achieving the agreed Outcomes. The one plan should be implemented by all Agencies.
- The Children and Young People's Plan should be supported by a local process to deliver the Plan and to meet locally assessed need. This local process should include all local stakeholders and has the potential to provide the Children's section in the local District Council Community Plan.
- It is necessary to ensure the full participation of Children, Young People, families and communities. The process should be properly resourced.



1.4 Toward the end of this period, there were moves toward the re-establishment of a Local Assembly and Executive to replace the direct-rule arrangements which had been in place.

1.5 From a policy perspective, major developments have reflected a growing focus on the well being of children and young people in Northern Ireland. Underpinning this has been the articulation of High Level Outcomes in the 10 year Strategy – “Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge” published by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. These outcomes express what we want for all children and young people in Northern Ireland and are fully endorsed by the Western Area Children and Young People’s Committee. The outcomes are:-

- Being healthy;
- Enjoying, learning and achieving;
- Living in Safety and with Stability;
- Experiencing economic and environmental well-being;
- Contributing positively to community and society; and
- Living in a society which respects their rights.

Everyone from Government to Local Communities can play a part in helping to reach these goals. It is particularly important that agencies work together when designing and delivering the additional services needed by vulnerable children and young people to achieve their full potential.

1.6 The Children and Young People’s Funding Package announced by Peter Hain, Secretary of State provided for a significant investment in children and young people’s services. The implementation of the developments across the key themes made progress during the year. There was a general feeling within the Western Area Children and Young People’s Committee that progress was driven by the need to see “spend” and displayed little collaborative planning at departmental or local level. A greater use of the relationships nurtured through Children’s Services Planning would have resulted in a more integrated approach to planning and delivery, one of the objectives of government policy.

1.7 In November 2006, policy responsibility for Early Years services transferred from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to the Department of Education. The statutory duty to register and inspect day care services remains a Health and Social Care Trust responsibility. The integration of policy responsibility to one Department is expected to produce an improved level of seamless policy development for children of all ages.

1.8 During this period, a number of key Reports and Consultation documents were published which will have an impact on the policy direction for children and young people. The publications have included:-

- A Consultation Paper on Play Policy for Northern Ireland (OFMDFM)
- “Our Children and Young People – Our Shared Responsibility” – an Overview Report of the Inspection of Child Protection Services in Northern Ireland (Social Services Inspectorate – DHSSPS)
- Consultation on the Establishment of a Regional Statutory Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (DHSSPS)
- “Families Matter – Supporting Families in Northern Ireland” – A consultation paper on the development of a strategy to support parents to help their children reach their full potential (DHSSPS)
- “Care Matters in Northern Ireland – A Bridge to a Better Future” – a consultation paper on the best way to invest in a range of preventative services designated to help children and their families to stay together and strengthen support for those children who need to come into care.
- “Lifetime Opportunities” – the Government’s Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland in which there is a broad consensus about the need to prioritise child poverty.

2 DEVELOPING AND MONITORING THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN - WACYPC

Strategic Objective:

The Western Area Children and Young Peoples Committee will promote and develop the Children's Services Plan through the period 2005-2008, concentrating on achieving progress in the areas of:

- ***Outcomes based on Needs and Rights***
- ***Integrated Planning based on the "Whole Child" Model***
- ***Supporting Families***

2.1 Membership of the Western Area Children & Young People's Committee

The membership of the Children and Young Peoples Committee, representing the key statutory agencies, and the voluntary/community sectors has been fairly consistent during the period. Mr Artie O'Neill of the Youth Justice Agency has retired following a significant contribution to Children's Services Planning in the West. He will be replaced by Thompson Best, currently Chair of the Youth Justice Sub Committee.

The Committee has been disappointed by the lack of representation from the Western Education and Library Board following the retirement of Sheila McCaul in the previous year. Despite requests for representation, no replacement for Ms McCaul has been identified.

2.2 Children's Services Planning Review Day

On 18th October 2006, a Review Day was held, bringing together members of the Children and Young People's Committee with members of the other Sub Committees. The event provided an opportunity for:-

- Updating on policy issues and
- Communication across Sub Committees of their respective work-streams and priorities.

2.3 Key Issues of Children's Services Planning in 2006/07

The process of collaborative planning during this period was supported by work in the following areas:-

- Review of Public Administration

This has been addressed in Chapter 1 but reflected the importance of maintaining a focus on Outcome Focussed planning in the context of the potential disruption of organisational change. The proposals developed by the four Children and Young People's Committees and four Child Care Partnerships have made a valuable contribution to the debate around inter-agency and cross-sectoral collaboration in improving the well-being of children in Northern Ireland.

- Youth Participation

The Western Health & Social Services Board has been actively involved in the Youth Participation Project, a cross border project. This Project's aim is to develop a systematic and sustainable framework for the participation of young people in the



the planning and design of health and social care services in the North West of Ireland. Following the initial conference held in December 2005, a follow up conference "Right to Be – the return" was held in the Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny on 1st December 2006 (pictured on left

– Castlederg Youth Forum). This provided the opportunity for the service providers/planners who made commitments at the first Conference to give an account of the progress they had made. The various Young People's Reference Groups also made a series of presentations, which proved to be, at different times hilarious and poignant but always highly informative and thought provoking.

- The CAWT Project on Children's Services Planning and Information

Work has continued on Outcomes-focused planning in terms of developing both a model for planning and an Information System which will support the model across the CAWT Region. The Western Area's Children's Services Planner and Information Officer have been working with colleagues from the Southern Area Children and Young People's Committee and HSE (West and Dublin/North East). The Project has commissioned two strands of work:-

- i) NUI Galway is helping the Project Board develop a model for Outcome-focussed planning which can be used in both jurisdictions.
- ii) A web-based Geographical Information System (GIS) is being developed to map shared Indicators of children's well-being. This will support planning through the identification of priority target areas and may form the basis of an All Island Information System.

3 BUILDING ON THE STRENGTHS OF FAMILIES

Strategic Objective:

- ***To develop family support as the preferred method of intervention in meeting the needs of children by building on the strengths of families and carers.***
- ***To provide an information base which will enable participating agencies to plan strategically for the development of family support services.***
- ***To develop a comprehensive range of services which can meet the needs of children and their families in a supportive way.***

3.1 The Family Support Strategy has continued to be taken forward through:-

- (a) The Intensive Support work being taken forward in each Community Trust area to address the needs of children and families who meet the Trust Thresholds for Intervention criteria.
- (b) Preventative and Early Intervention support for children and families provided primarily within the voluntary and community sectors.

3.2 The Intensive Support Strategy (previously know as 'New Beginnings') has been taken forward in both Trusts at different levels of progress. Foyle Trust has made significant changes in structure and culture and continues to build on the positive evaluation carried out by NUI Galway during the last Review period. Sperrin Lakeland Trust has been moving in the same direction but at a different pace and mindful of the outcome of the evaluation carried out in Foyle Trust. The outcomes of the Intensive Support strategy are outlined in the Chapters relating to Child Protection and Children in Public Care.

Family Group Conferencing has provided a real opportunity to work in partnership with families to develop support plans building on the strengths within families and extended families. Initiated in Foyle Trust, the service was extended into the Sperrin Lakeland Trust area to address central government Priorities for Action Targets.

3.3 The strategic direction for the development of Preventative and Early Intervention Services has been supported by the progress of the Locality Action Groups facilitated by NCH staff, Maria Herron (Foyle Trust area) and Priscilla Magee (Sperrin Lakeland Trust area). The Locality Action Groups have been established in each current District Council area (two in the Derry City Council area) and have brought together partnerships of stakeholders at local level to consider the improvement of children's well-being.

Progress Report

- Establishment of Locality Action Groups in six areas
- Inclusion of the views of children/young people and parents
- Engagement with Duty & Assessment service in local Trusts
- Increasing awareness of an Outcomes-focussed approach
- Use of information to assess local needs and benchmark these against other localities
- Progress on the development of Locality Action Plans

4 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PUBLIC CARE

Strategic Objective:

To develop a range of services for children and young people in public care which will increase the capacity of WHSSB and Trusts to comprehensively assess their needs, in collaboration with other agencies and to ensure that Care Plans can draw upon appropriate placements and other support and treatment services.

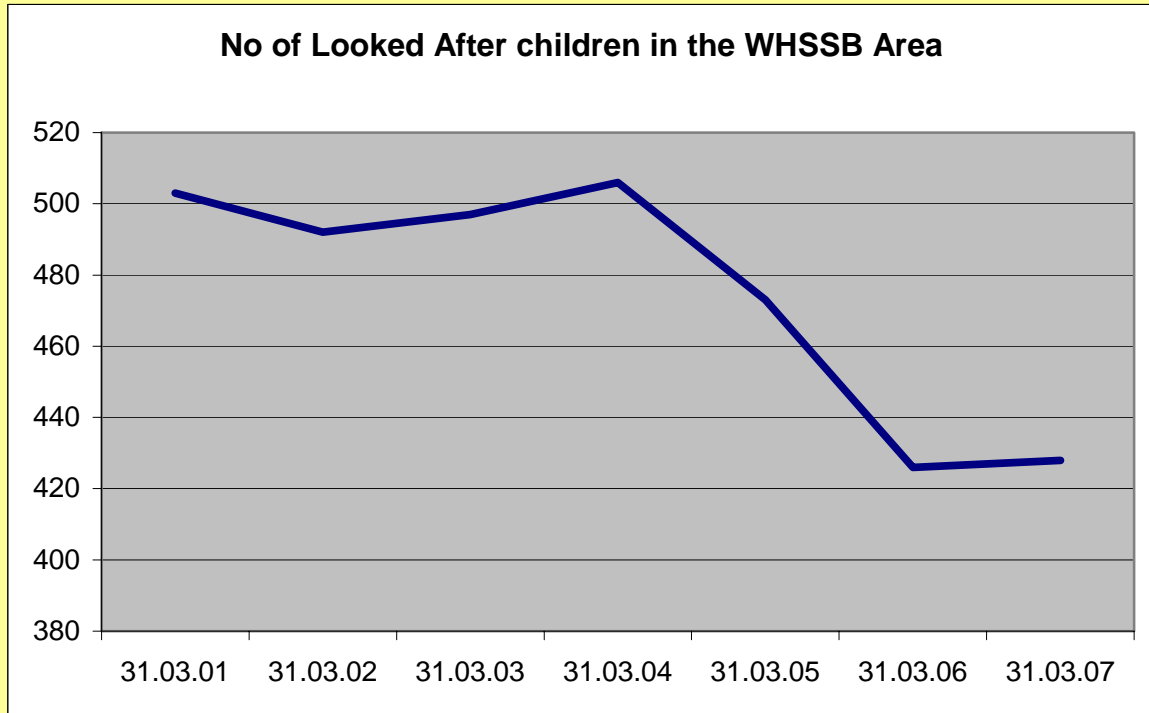
4.1 The Looked After Children Sub Committee was chaired by Godfrey Young, Sperrin Lakeland Trust until his resignation in December 2006. The Sub Committee would like to acknowledge his commitment and leadership during his long association with the Trust and with the Sub Committee. The Sub Committee was chaired by Eamon McTernan (ADSS) until March 2007 when arrangements were made for Ethel Johnston, PSW (WHSSB) to take over the role.

4.2

	Foyle Trust	Sperrin Lakeland Trust	TOTAL
Residential	36	26	62
Foster Care	205	103	308
Placed with own family	32	20	52
Other	0	6	6
TOTAL	273	155	428

DID YOU KNOW THAT

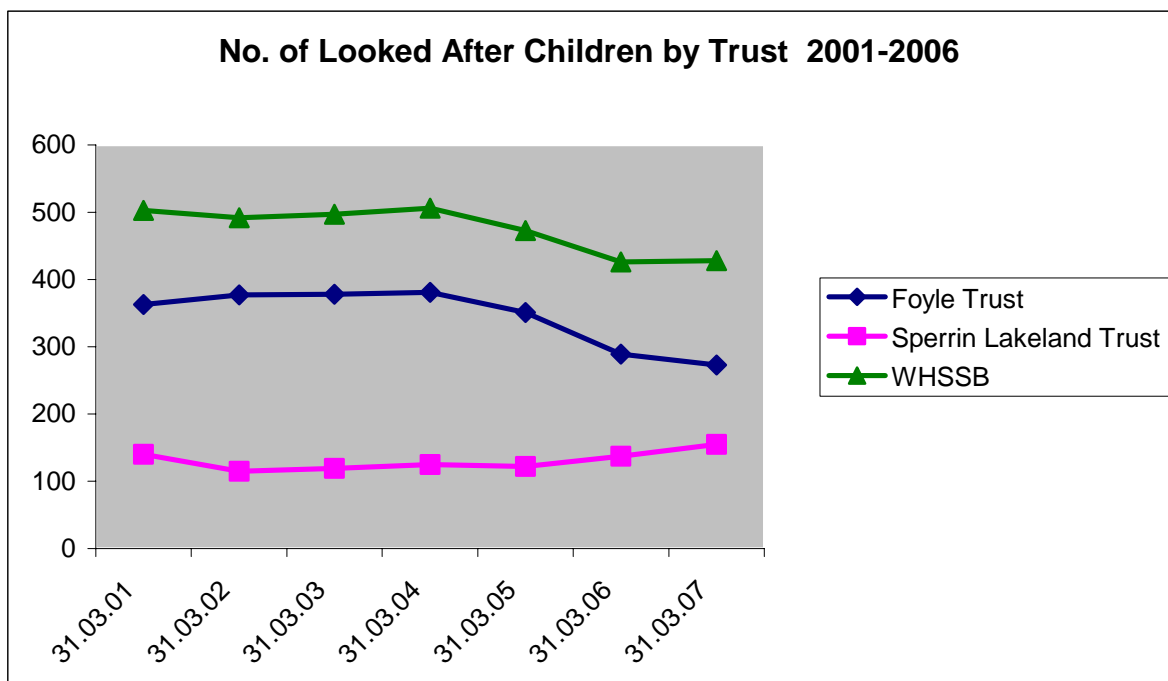
- At 31 March 2007, there were 428 children in care in the WHSSB area (a decrease of 6% in the Foyle Trust area from the previous year and an increase of 13% in the Sperrin Lakeland Trust area).



- Since 2001 there has been an overall decrease in children in care from 503 to 428 in 2007

4.3 Children in Care

Foyle Trust has experienced a significant decrease in the number of children in care since 2001 while Sperrin Lakeland has seen an increase over the last few years from 2001 levels.

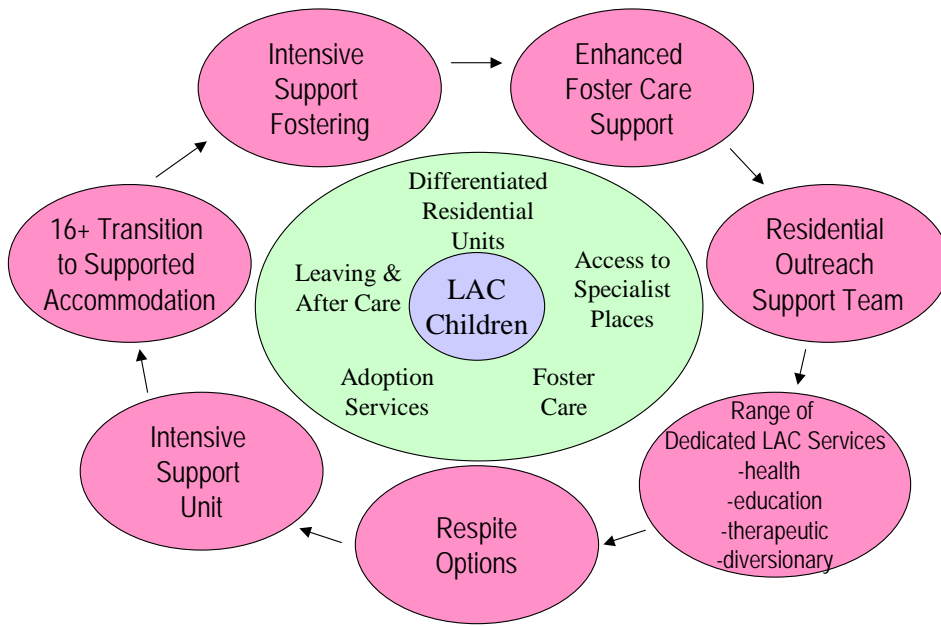


The main driver of this shift in trend in Foyle Trust seems to be the development of the New Beginnings Project with emphasis on:-

- Single point assessment through the Duty and Assessment Team
- Central allocation of resources, according to assessed need
- Development of Intensive Family Support Services (eg Family Group Conferencing, Family Support Workers)
- A culture change with emphasis on the Family Resilience model
- Corporate ownership.

4.4 Children Matter Task Force

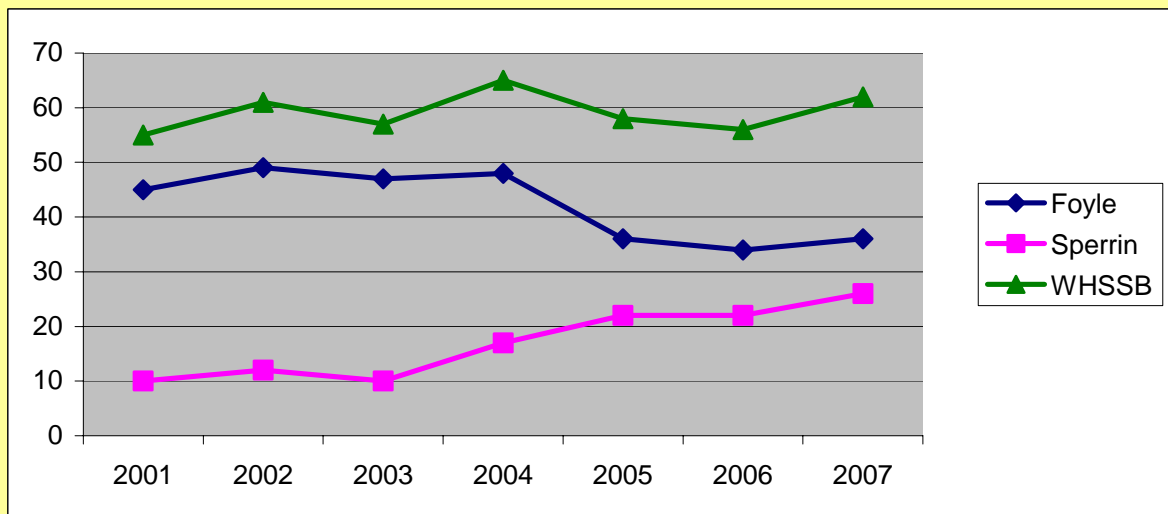
The Western Board set up a Children Matter Task Force under the Chairmanship of Eamon McTernan, ADSS to consider the best configuration of “looked after” provision. A proposed range of provision illustrated below provides the framework for the proposals which are being finalised.



4.5 Residential Care

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- The number of children in residential care has increased in Sperrin Lakeland Trust from 10 in 2001 to 26 in 2007.
- The number of children in residential care in Foyle Trust has reduced from 45 in 2001 to 36 in 2007.



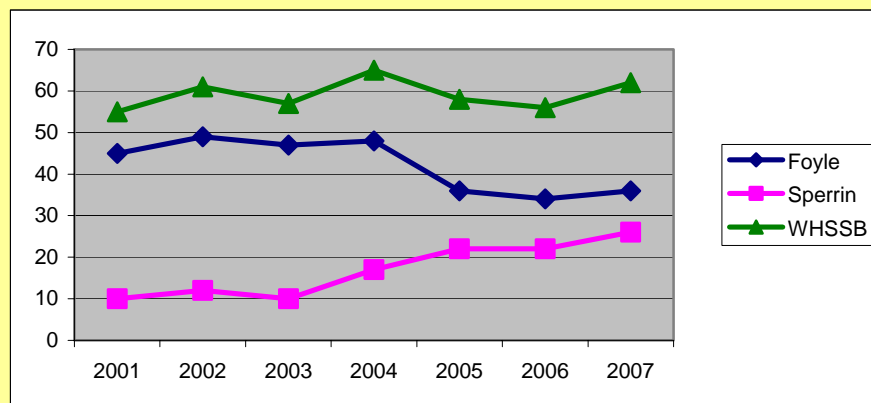
Progress Report – Residential Care

- The publication of the Overview Report on the Inspection of Child Protection Services in Northern Ireland – “Our Children and Young People – Our Shared Responsibility” (December 2006) has identified a series of recommendations relating to the interface between fieldwork and residential care services. An Action Plan to address these is being developed by WHSSB and the Trust.
- Closure of Brindley House in June 2006 led to a reduction in the provision of residential care and the need to establish 1:1 provision for young people affected by the closure.
- Consideration is being given to the need for an Intensive Support Unit in the area with a reduction in placements purchased outside the Board area (eg Glenmona).
- Development of Outreach provision from residential services in Foyle Trust has provided flexible support to children and young people in families under stress (including foster families).
- Development of “crash-pad” facilities.

4.6 Foster Care

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- The number of children placed in foster care has decreased in Foyle Trust since March 2001.
- The number of children placed in foster care in Sperrin Lakeland Trust has increased since 2001.



Progress Report – Foster Care

- Fostering Strategy
 - Local investment in terms of recruitment and assessment/link workers
 - Improved training opportunities for foster carers
 - Enhancements to payment scheme
 - 24/7 Help line for foster carers
- The Children & Young People’s Funding Package provided additional funding to:
 - Support and equip foster carers to discharge their role effectively as “first educators” of the child in their care
 - Enable young people aged 18-21 who had been fostered to remain with their carers while in education, training or employment. 21 young people benefited from this in 2006/07.

4.7 Adoption & Permanency Planning

The Western Area Adoption Panel met on 21 occasions during the year with its business focussing on:-

- Domestic Adoption
- Inter-country Adoption
- Quality Assurance

No of Children referred to Panel

2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
21	14	24	13	8

No of Adoptive Applicants referred to Panel

2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
9	17	16	17	20

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- There was a significant decrease in the number of children for whom adoption was planned from 21 in 2002/03 to 8 in 2006/07.
- There was a significant increase in the number of Adoptive Applicants referred to the Panel from 9 in 2002/03 to 20 in 2006/07.

4.8 Looked After Children - General

Progress Report

- The Children and Young People's Package made available funding for an Advocacy and Mentoring service which is currently being established by VOYPIC.
- Extern have continued to provide support for young people in residential/foster care through the Janus Programme in both Trusts. An evaluation carried out by CTC Associates showed a positive impact from the Programme. As both Trusts' programmes are funded on a time limited basis there are concerns about the ability to sustain the service, particularly in Foyle Trust beyond March 2007.
- VOYPIC produced a powerful report "Don't Be So Formal, I'm Normal" through its CASPAR Project on the mental health of looked after children/care leavers in Northern Ireland. The research report and a literature review make a valuable contribution to the need for a strategic response to better outcomes for care experience children and young people.
- A Regional Workshop was held in February 2007 to explore the impact of the 10 year Strategy's High Level Outcomes for Looked After and Care-Experienced Children and Young People. It is intended to take this work forward through the identification of key indicators to reflect well-being and to provide a basis for measuring progress against the Outcomes.
- In March 2007, DHSSPS published a Consultation Paper – "Care Matters in Northern Ireland – A Bridge to a Better Future". This paper outlined the NI Government's intention to strengthen the support for families of children "on the edge of care" and for children and young people who cannot live with their birth parents. The Western Children and Young People's Committee was involved in the preparation of a response to the Consultation.
- The Sub Committee identified the "Healthy" Outcome as a priority for attention in the following year.

5 CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY

Strategic Objective:

To develop a range of services in the Western area, which build on children's strengths, provide integrated and linked services, involve those who use the services, support families and carers, and promote the rights of disabled children and young people.

No of Young People Registered on Module V of the child Health System

Year Ending	31/03/04	31/03/05	31/03/06	31/03/07
No	2148	2198	2244	2368
Rate per 1000 of population aged 0-19	23.8%	24.7%	25.5%	27.3%

5.1 The children with a Disability Sub Committee has continued to be Chaired by Noel Quigley, Commissioner, WHSSB. The Sub Committee has had a number of meetings cancelled in this period and this has reflected the efforts being made to address the developments under the Children and Young People's Package.

5.2 Key developments for the sector in this year included:-

- The development of an Integrated Referral and Discharge Pathway for children with complex health care needs, requiring respite services.
- The continuing development of the Barnardo's Keyworker Project.
- The commencement of a scoping study on the "Day Care Needs of young children with Disabilities in Northern Ireland" being undertaken by NCB/NICMA.
- Developments under the Children and Young Peoples Funding Package including the establishment of the Western Education Support Teams, the enhancement of transitional planning and additional funding for wheelchair services.
- Engagement with young people with a Disability. Cedar Foundation have been undertaking a process of engagement with young people with a disability or a cross border base covering the WHSSB area and the North west area of the HSE (West).
- The publication of "Standards and Guidance for Promoting Collaborative working to support children with Special Needs" by the Department of Education, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Education and Training Inspectorate.

6 CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIOURAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL OR PSYCHIATRIC DIFFICULTIES

Strategic Objective:

To achieve better outcomes for children and young people with emotional, psychological, psychiatric and behavioural problems through better collaborative planning and practice by the key agencies, and with particular emphasis on prevention

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
No of young people aged <20 referred to Adult Mental Health Team	362	421	474
No of young people aged <20 on current caseload of Adult Mental Health Team	126	89	36
No of young people age <20 admitted to Adult Hospital Wards	130	103	61

- 6.1 The Sub-Committee for Children with Emotional, Behavioural, Psychological or Psychiatric difficulties has continued to meet during this year under the chair of Jim Simpson, Service Planner, WHSSB.
- 6.2 The Sub Group undertook responsibility for supporting key developments within the sector which included the issues below, recognising the breadth of issues/themes.
- 6.3 The Sub Committee contributed to discussion around the re-design of CAMHS, particularly in relation to the 16-19 year age group. At the end of this period, funding had been allocated for the new Western Health & Social Care Trust to expand its services through the appointment of additional medical staff (including Consultant) and 5 Crisis Intervention Management staff.
- 6.4 Under the Children & Young People's Funding Package additional funding was made available to develop school based counselling services for children and young people. The contract for the service was awarded during this period to Contact Youth who have been preparing to establish the service across the region.

- 6.5 The Cross Border Young Person's Group, supported by the National Children's Bureau (NCB) and members of the Sub Committee, developed a very valuable resource pack for a youth led emotional well-being Programme. The resource pack "Getting It Together" could be used in many areas of work with young people and initial plans were drawn up to provide it as part of an overall package including ASIST and Mental Health First Aid to young people and staff from:
- The Looked After and Care Experienced Sectors
 - Youth Justice Sector
 - School Exclusion Sector
- 6.6 The Sub Committee has undertaken work in relation to the consolidation of the development of the Chance for Change Project, a collaborative Project between NCH and Foyle Trust. Funded on a time-limited basis through the Children's Fund the Project provides programmes of support to children experiencing emotional and behavioural difficulties, their parents and their teachers in 26 schools in the Derry City Council area.
- 6.7 In relation to the impact of drugs and alcohol misuse, the Sub Committee has included the work of the Western Drugs and Alcohol Team (WDACT) in relation to young people. The funding allocated up to March 2008 has included:-
- Youth Treatment, Counselling and Support Services
 - Community based Education and Prevention Programmes
- 6.8 Under the remit of "Hidden Harm", the Sub Committee has also sought to work with WDACT in the development of a strategy to provide support in the Western area to children and young people affected by the misuse of drugs and alcohol within their families. It is planned to develop protocols for early intervention and support based on agreed assessment and referral pathways.
- 6.9 The Sub Committee developed working links with Foyle CRUSE in relation to planning support services for children affected by bereavement. It is hoped to build on this initial consideration of difficulties experienced due to bereavement.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

During 2005/06, there were 984 young people referred to Adult Mental Health Teams (421 < 20 years and 563 aged 20-24 years).

At 31 March 2006, there were 453 young people on the caseload of Adult Mental Health Teams (89 < 20 years and 364 aged 20-24 years).

During 2005/06, there were 249 young people admissions to Adult Wards (103 < 20 years and 146 aged 20-24 years).

At 31 March 2007, there were 194 children/young people on the waiting list for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

7 CHILDREN IN NEED OF PROTECTION

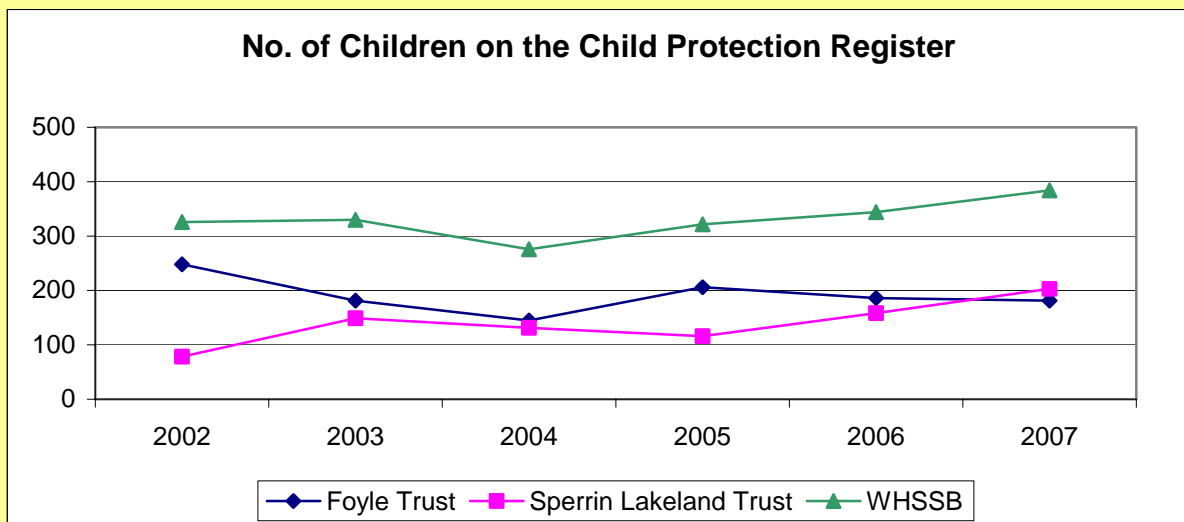
Strategic Objective:

- *To ensure that children are protected from physical, sexual and emotional abuse and from neglect.*
- *To ensure that preventative services are coordinated in a way that ensures that the greatest impact and effect can be secured for the benefit of families in the Western area.*
- *To fully develop an outcomes-based approach to child protection involving all agencies.*

7.1 The Western Area Child Protection Committee met on 6 occasions during the period, chaired by Eamon McTernan, ADSS (CC).

DID YOU KNOW THAT

	Mar 01	Mar 02	Mar 03	Mar 04	Mar 05	Mar 06	Mar 07
Foyle Trust	189	248	181	145	206	186	181
Sperrin Lakeland Trust	77	78	149	131	116	158	203
WHSSB	266	326	330	276	322	344	384



7.2 Key Issues Addressed during the Year

- [Gateway Teams](#) – Funding was made available from the Children and Young People's Funding Package (March 2006) to develop Gateway Teams across the Community Trusts.
- [UNOCINI](#) – The Western ACPC monitored the introduction of the UNOCINI Assessment framework which was piloted across four Community Trusts, including Foyle Trust in the Western Area. Implementation issues addressed by the ACPC included the need for multi-agency training and for interagency mandating of the Framework.
- [Risk Monitoring](#) – The Western ACPC monitored the Risk Monitoring Reports from the Trusts.
- [Laming Report Recommendations](#) – The Trust's progress in terms of addressing the Laming Report recommendations was addressed.
- ["Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland"](#) – The Western ACPC responded to the Consultation Paper published by DHSSPS in January 2007. The proposal indicated the establishment of a Regional Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland with a duty to make arrangements to safeguard the welfare of children and young people. The concept of "safeguarding" in the context was intended to have a much wider meaning than that of Child Protection alone. It will incorporate all preventable harm that impacts on the lives of children and will have a direct link with the "Living in Safety and Stability" Outcome of the 10 Year Strategy for Children and Young People (OFMDFM).
- [SSI Overview Report](#) on the Inspection of Child Protection Services in Northern Ireland – "Our Children and Young People – Our Shared Responsibility" was published by the Social Services Inspectorate in December 2006. The Western Area Child Protection Committee began to address the recommendations in relation to their activities while the Trusts agreed to develop an integrated Trust response through a Project Management process.
- [Training & Development](#) – The Western ACPC and the Trusts' Child Protection Panels held a Workshop on 27/28 March 2007 – "From Child Protection to Safeguarding" – to consider the issues, imperatives and implications of the movement from a narrow child protection focus to a broader safeguarding children agenda.
- [Case Management Reviews](#) – The Western ACPC contributed to and monitored the outcomes of the Case Management Reviews carried out in relation to children from the Western Board area.

- [MASRAM](#) – New guidelines were implemented from June 2006 and the Committee considered these in terms of training needs and capacity issues in ensuring that expected agency responses could be met.

- [Audit](#) – the Audit Sub Committee identified a number of cost cutting themes to be addressed including:-
 - Supervision
 - Multi-agency interface
 - Referral systems
 - Training
 - Professional accountabilityResources were identified to support the audit process and the progress of this was monitored by the Committee.

- [The “Parents Diary”](#) was launched on 23 January 2007. This publication resulted from significant work undertaken by a group of parents and provided a useful resource for parents with advice and guidance about parenting issues.

8 YOUTH JUSTICE

Strategic Objective:

To work to prevent offending by increasing the range and coherence of services in the Western Area (along the continuum from prevention of rehabilitation) which promote the social inclusion of children and young people who are at different levels of risk of offending or who have been adjudicated on by the courts.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

There were over 2,000 young people involved in offending from the Western Area in the year ending March 2006.

8.1 Committee Meetings

The Youth Justice Sub-Committee met on 6 occasions during this monitoring period under the Chairmanship of Thompson Best, Youth Justice Agency.

8.2 Strategy for the Prevention of Offending by Children and Young People in Northern Ireland

The Sub Committee worked with the other three Area Sub Committees under the Chairmanship of Dave Weir, Youth Justice Agency to develop a Regional Strategy document. This work was commissioned by the Chairs of the four Children & Young Peoples Committees as a multi-agency strategy which sought to reference:-

- Risk factors/lessons from research
- Adherence to the 6 Outcomes outlined in the Children and Young People's Strategy with defined indicators to measure well-being
- Children's Rights
- Participation of children and young people.

A draft document was prepared during this period and circulated for consultation.

8.3 Outcome - Focus

The Sub Committee spent some time during the period developing its awareness of Outcome-Focussed Planning and its potential application to planning for children and young people who offend or are vulnerable to offending. The ability to benchmark the well-being of this population to the whole population of children and young people would provide an additional reference point for planning to improve well-being.

8.4 Funding

During this monitoring period, the Sub Committee (through WHSSB) extended funding to Extern with an allocation of £232,000. This funding had been made available to the Sub Committee by the Youth Justice Agency and was used to support the provision of the Janus Project in the Foyle Trust part of the Western Board area.

The Sub Committee commissioned an Evaluation of the Janus Project by CTC Associates and this was completed during the year. The Evaluation concluded that:-

- I) The Janus Projects have the potential to address the needs of young people who persist in problematic behaviour in both the care system and the youth justice system.
- II) A collaborative approach to planning, funding and delivering the service should be developed by Foyle Trust and the Youth Justice Agency.
- III) The model has demonstrated a value which could be extended beyond the Foyle Trust area.

8.5 Community Safety Planning

The Sub Committee has actively sought the involvement of Community Safety Planning in the District Council areas in the West. The active involvement of all of the Community Safety Planners at some stage during this period has enabled linkages with the relevant children and young person themes of the various Community Safety Action Plans.

9 HOMELESSNESS – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Strategic Objective:

To plan, coordinate and develop through interagency partnership working, the range of housing provision and support services necessary for children, families and young people who are vulnerable due to homelessness.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Number of Families Accepted as Homeless

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Small Families	428	501	501
Large Families	92	84	120
Families Total	520	585	621

Children in temporary accommodation miss out on a quarter of their schooling (shelter 2004 “Living in Limbo”).

- 9.1 The Homelessness Sub Committee continued to meet during this period under the Chairmanship of Walter Mullan, NIHE and included membership from NIHE, Housing providers and Health/Social Care representatives from the Community Trusts.
- 9.2 A Floating Support Service Database was designed with support from Tommy Doherty, Information Officer, WHSSB to record information on families, children and young people using floating support services. It is intended that this system could be extended across floating support services in the Western Board area. The system will enable information on presenting needs and support profiles to be collated to facilitate service development initiatives.
- 9.3 The Sub Committee recognised the progress that has been made since the publication in 2001 of “Homeless Families, Homeless Children”, a partnership report involving WHSSB, NIHE and the Simon Community. The development of Supporting People initiatives and policy changes in relation to homeless families have resulted in more appropriate and better supported forms of temporary accommodation. At the end of this monitoring period, the Sub Committee decided that a further study could be carried out to update the experiences of homeless families with children. Agreement was reached to carry this out through structured interviews with parents and children during the next period.

10 SIXTEEN PLUS

Strategic Objective:

To promote the health & well-being of vulnerable young people aged 16-21 years by strengthening multi-agency working in the planning, development and monitoring of a range of services based on assessed need.

10.1 The Sixteen Plus Sub-Committee met regularly during the year, chaired by Vivian McConvey, VOYPIC.

10.2 The Sub Committee during this period focussed mainly on the issues relevant to care-experienced young people. It also addressed matters relating to youth homelessness through its active involvement in and contribution to the development of a Regional Good Practice Framework for NIHE and Trusts and to the Children Matter agenda through the Taskforce Chaired by Eamon McTernan (ADSS) to consider the best configuration of "Looked After" provision.

10.3 Progress Report

The Sub Committee addressed and contributed to the following areas of development:-

- Implementation of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2002 including the development of Pathway Planning Frameworks and the Personal Advisor Service across both Trust areas.
- Regional Policies & Frameworks in relation to:
 - The interface between Department of Employment and Learning in respect of Care Experienced Young People.
 - A Regional Good Practice Framework between the NIHE and Health & Social Services Trusts – "Meeting the Accommodation needs of 16-21 year olds.
 - A Good Practice Framework for Transition Planning for Young People leaving care with a disability.
 - A Good Practice Framework for Joint Working between the Social Security Agency and Trusts in relation to Care Leavers.
- Pre-Vocational Programme for Care Leavers. The Sub Committee undertook a tendering process for a pre-vocational service for young care leavers not in Education, Employment or Training. The contract was awarded to Include Youth and the Sub Committee monitors its development and activities through a Steering Group.

- Development of a Western Board database in relation to the Leaving Care Population.
- The development of Family Group Conferencing for care leavers recognised the potential source of support for young people from their extended family. Additional investment in this service enabled a focus on decision making at this transitional stage of a young person's care – career.
- The introduction of additional funding for the development of a Former Carer Scheme supported a growth in the number of young people remaining with their foster carers beyond the age of 18 years which they remained in Employment, Education or Training.
- Collaborative working with Supporting People (NIHE) to develop a range of supported accommodations for young people aged 16-21.
- Funding from the Children and Young Peoples Funding Package has facilitated the development of an Advocacy and Mentoring Service by VOYPIC. This service will have a base in the Western area.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

During 2006/07, 23 young people left care in the Western Board Area.

22% of care leavers remain with Foster Parents.

A recent study of 192 care leavers in the Western Board Area showed that:

- 42% were in Training or Further Education
- 15% were in Employment
- 23% were Unemployed
- 5% were on Incapacity Benefit
- 3% were in Prison
- 17% were Parents
- 31% had been Convicted of an Offence

2.5% of the child population aged 0-19 in the Western Board have a disability; for those young people who have left care, the figures are 19%.

1.4% of the child population aged 0-19 in the Western Board were referred to Mental Health Services during 2005/06; for those young people who have left care, the figures are 13%.

11 THE WESTERN AREA CHILD CARE PLAN

Strategic Objective:

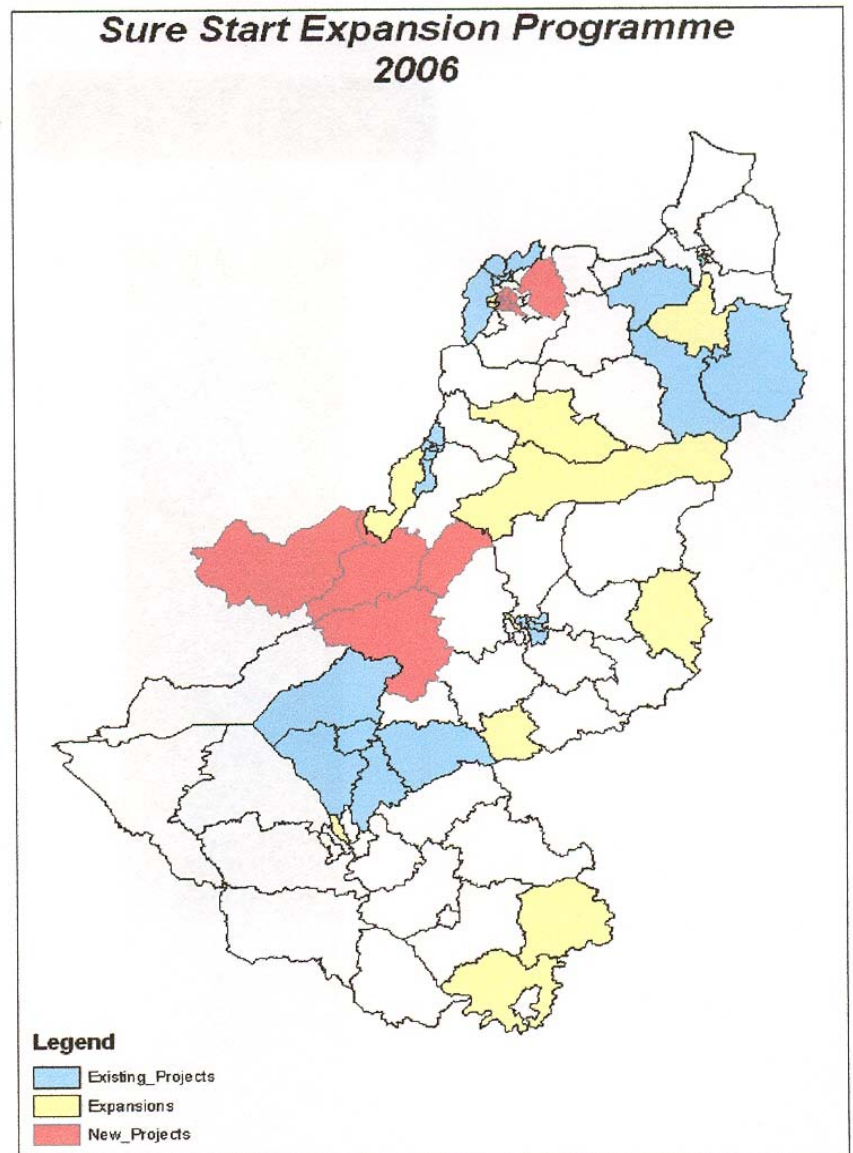
The Western Area Child Care Partnership took its Objectives from Children First, the Northern Ireland Childcare Strategy (1999) that aimed “to ensure high quality, affordable childcare in Northern Ireland”. The policy outlined measures to be taken to improve quality, increase access, provide better information and make childcare more affordable.

The recent announcement of funding under the Children & Young People's Funding Package and the OFMDFM 10 Year Strategy, “Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge,” has provided the Childcare Partnership with renewed objectives and an associated funding stream to build on the achievements initiated under the Children First Policy.

- 11.1 The Western Area Childcare Partnership has met regularly during the year, chaired by Eamon McTernan (WHSSB). The major work of the Partnership continues to be undertaken by a number of Sub Groups including:-
- The Quality Assurance and Development (QUAD) Sub-Committee (Co-Chaired by Winnie Kelly, SureStart Omagh and Danny Cassidy, Altram) which addresses the issues of quality standards and training.
 - The Planning, Information and Communication Sub Group (PICS) (Chaired by Gerry Conway, Children's Services Planner) which concentrates on the development of information systems which support a needs-led approach to planning.
 - The Strategic Funding Panel chaired by Jackie O'Loughlin (Playboard) which makes funding recommendations to the Partnership in relation to allocations and supports their monitoring.
 - Local Early Years Fora in each District Council area which provide a local focal point of support for the Early Years Sector.
- 11.2 A major focus of the Child Care Partnership has been the expansion of SureStart following the allocation from the Children & Young Peoples Funding Package announced in March 2006. an additional £1.28million investment has enabled SureStart Services to be expanded to 28 more Wards, ensure that families in the highest 20% most deprived Wards can now access SureStart. At the end of this period, existing Projects in Omagh, Irvinestown, Strabane, Dungiven and Creevagh Springtown had expanded into other Wards. New Projects had been planned in the West Bank and East Bank of Derry City and in West Tyrone and will be fully operational during 2007/08. in terms of additional coverage, the overall expansion will make SureStart services accessible to an additional 4,702 children aged under 4 years.

Location	Wards
Creevagh	Rosemount
Shantallow	N/A
Omagh	Strule Fintona Termon
Limavady	Greystone The Highlands
Fermanagh	Devenish Rosslea Newtownbultutler
Strabane	Finn Dunnamanagh Plumbridge
TOTAL - Sure Start Expansions	

Derry West Bank	Brandywell The Diamond Westland Strand Beechwood Creggan Central Creggan South
Derry East Bank	Victoria Ebrington Clondermott Enagh
Castledearg/ Newtownstewart	Castledearg Glenderg Clare Drumquin Newtownstewart
TOTAL - SureStart New Projects	



11.3 SureStart expansion in the West has also included allocations to Projects to provide a specific programme for 2 year olds (£0.5 million) and to develop Day Care to facilitate parents in training or employment (£0.3 million). At the end of this year, training was being undertaken to prepare for a pilot programme for 2 year olds from September 2007. The development of Day Care is being taken forward by each Project in terms of providing additional group day care or through the development of a Childminding Network in partnership with NICMA (the Northern Ireland Childminding Association).

- 11.4 During this year the policy responsibility for Early Years transferred to Department of Education from Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. Underpinning this was a desire to make the development of an Early Years policy more coherent, more outcomes focussed and more cost effective. The transition through from birth to school age, from SureStart through Pre-School Education should be better integrated. The Department of Education announced plans to develop an Early Years Strategy for the 0-6 year old age group, drawing on research and good practice evidence and bringing together SureStart, pre-school and home child care to improve the well-being of children.
- 11.5 The Western Child Care Partnership in collaboration with the other three Partnerships produced a Regional “Learning and Development Strategy for the Early Years Sector”, promoting the development of a funded integrated work force strategy for the sector including the development of a Framework of Qualifications and Career Progression. The Northern Ireland Social Care Council is currently developing a Sector Skills Agreement and Sector Learning Strategy which will provide a framework for appropriate learning and qualification developments in the Early Years Sector. This work will also contribute to the development of a strategy for 0-6 year olds being undertaken by the Department of Education.
- 11.6 The Western Child Care Partnership with its colleagues in the other Child Care Partnerships have been concerned about the impact of the Review of Public Administration and the transfer of policy responsibility to the Department of Education on the collaborative approach to planning for this sector. A Structures Paper is being prepared which includes the proposed development of a Regional Early Years Partnership linked to the proposals made for a Children and Young Peoples Partnership by the Children’s Services Planners paper. At a sub regional level, it is proposed to create a number of Integrated Early Years Forums to “give expression to the strategic direction of the Early Years Partnership and to facilitate the assessment of priorities at a local level

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- SureStart Services are available to all children aged 0-3 years in the top 20% most disadvantaged wards in the Western Board area.
- Around £4 million is invested every year in SureStart Projects in the West.

12 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Strategic Objective:

To minimise the impact of domestic violence on children and young people in the Western area by developing inter-agency strategies for education, prevention and intensive support

DID YOU KNOW THAT			
Numbers of Domestic Incidents and Offences recorded			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Total Incidents	3992	3981	3950
Total Offences Recorded	1548	1771	1480

12.1 The Domestic Violence Sub Committee continued to meet during this period under the Chair of Orla Conway, Omagh Women's Aid. The membership of the Sub Committee includes representation from Women's Aid, Health and Social Care in both Community Trusts, Western Education and Library Board and PSNI.

12.2 Issues addressed during the year included:-

- The development of an Outcomes focussed approach for planning for children affected by Domestic Violence. The Sub Committee explored the well-being of these children in the context of the six High Level Outcomes of the Children and Young People's Strategy (OFMDFM).
- The inclusion of children affected by Domestic Violence in the developing awareness of "vulnerable children" whose well-being is compromised by living in families with alcohol or drug related problems, mental illness and domestic violence. An increasing concern with "vulnerability" led to the identification of the following key service requirements:-
 - A recognition of the vulnerability of children living in families experiencing such difficulties
 - A multi-agency assessment of the needs of children in these families

- Early identification of the need for support and a timely access to appropriate support services
- A collaborative approach to the delivery of support services based on assessed needs.
- A consideration of Early Intervention supports for children through the promotion of a series of programmes in schools to raise the awareness of healthy relationships and the impact of domestic violence. Developing links with local communities through SureStart was recognised as a potential vehicle for developing early intervention services with appropriate sign posting as required to advice and support services.
- The engagement of children and young people who have had the need to use support services as a means of evaluating the usefulness of services from their perspective. This area of work remains work in progress for the future.

13 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES

Strategic Objective:

To improve key outcomes in relation to child health, maternal health and young people's health, based on integrated assessment of health needs, addressing the rights of children and young people, public expectations, workforce planning, partnership working and the strengthening of local infrastructures.

13.1 The Sub Committee has continued to meeting during 2006/07 under the Chair of Siobhan McIntyre, Service Planner, WHSSB.

13.2 Key Result Areas

Key Result Area	Progress
Service Planning	Integrated Service Planning has improved with the progression of Children's Commissioning Teams, including collaborative approaches with Education colleagues to implement investments from the Children and Young Peoples Funding package.
Screening and Health Surveillance Programmes	Hall 4 has been initiated across the Board and is now being implemented in the Trusts and a range of protocols and pathways have been developed to support the quality assurance of the revised programme. These will continue to be monitored through the performance management arrangements within the Board.
Service Framework for Children with Autism	<p>The Board launched the Autism Strategy Document in 2007. Significant progress has been made to implement the recommendations of the Strategy and to reduce waiting times for diagnosis and assessment. Additional funding has been identified for the recruitment this year of additional clinical posts for the Area Wide Team in the WHSCT which will have a base in Omagh.</p> <p>Funding has also been secured from DHSSPS to support treatment and AHP Services.</p> <p>The Board also carried out an evaluation report in 06/07 on the early intervention project across the West.</p>

Key Result Area	Progress
Review of Children & Young People's Palliative Care Services	<p>The Board's Palliative Care Forum continues to drive the action plan from the review of services in the WHSSB. The group have been successful in obtaining mainstream funding to continue to provide "hospice at home" services for children with palliative care needs in the West.</p> <p>The Board in partnership with the Northern Ireland's Children's Hospice is reviewing the joint appointment of a paediatric palliative care nursing post across the western area.</p> <p>In addition the Board is working in partnership to pursue funding application for day care facilities in the West.</p>
Health Promotion	<p>The Board has commissioned health promotion initiatives to address positive mental health, sexual health, and a reduction in unintentional injuries among children focusing on those under 5 years. Obesity among children is a primary focus and the Fit Futures Steering Group have put together an action plan bringing together voluntary, statutory and community sectors to promote physical activity and healthy eating in community and school settings.</p>
Maternal Health	<p>The Board in conjunction with the Trusts has finalised the Maternal Mental Health Pathway. Training and awareness sessions have been developed and funding provided to the Trust to assist with the implementation plan. The aim is to roll out the pathway to ensure that women with mental health concerns in pregnancy and post pregnancy are seen at appropriate times and signposted to support in the current year. This approach embraces the recently published NICE Guidelines on antenatal and post natal care.</p>

Key Result Area	Progress
Children and Young People who are Ill and those with Complex Needs	<p>The Board continues to review the needs of services for children with complex needs. Significant funding has been provided to the WHSCT to enhance service provision in the acute and community sectors to strengthen interface issues for respite and discharge arrangements.</p> <p>Additional nurses and health care assistants have been employed in the last year. The Board participated in a regional response to children and young people with complex needs completed in June 2007.</p>
Supporting Families and Communities	<p>Locality Action Groups have been established in six localities across the Western Area through funding provided to NCH (for more information see 3.3 on page 12)</p>
Breastfeeding Rates	<p>The Board continues to support Trusts with the progression of UNICEF accreditation, under the directions of the Board's Breast Feeding Strategy Group This work is currently being progressed in the Trust by the breast-feeding co-ordinators.</p>
Children & Young People's Package	<p>Under Theme 6 of the package the Board has commissioned a service to support children in mainstream educational settings with particular health needs. This service will involve two multidisciplinary teams working in collaboration with Education to ensure that the children meeting the criteria for referral, achieve their potential.</p>
Human Resources	<p>Redesign of AHP services is ongoing to improve services for children. A recent AHP investment has resulted in improved access for children in an acute setting. Further investment has been secured for Speech & language therapy and Occupational Therapy services for children.</p> <p>The Board have also secured investment to enhance training and development of staff working with children with complex needs and ASD across the Trust.</p>