



OIREACHTAS PRESENTATION

Childhood Development Initiative: Wednesday, October 25, 2017.

The Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) works with organisations, families and communities providing practical, hands-on 'know how' in designing, delivering, adapting and evaluating high quality, effective interventions. CDI offers tailored packages of needs analysis, service design, staff training, mentoring and capacity building in relation to improving a range of outcomes for children and families.

From 2007 to 2013 CDI was one of three Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) sites established to develop and evaluate prevention and early intervention programmes in Ireland. The PEIP was co-funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and the Atlantic Philanthropies (AP). In 2013 CDI became one of 13 areas nationwide funded under the current Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme which was again match-funded by DCYA and AP.

The core of CDI's current work involves coordinating seven interventions in Tallaght West, Dublin Inner City and other locations. Current programmes, which CDI has designed, evaluated and coordinates delivery of, include:

Chit Chat

Chit Chat, CDI's Early Intervention on-site Speech and Language Therapy Service, promotes accessibility by delivering onsite therapy which in turn increases attendance rates; provides training to teachers and early years professionals and develops parental skills in order to enhance children's development; facilitates collaboration between educational, early years and health staff, and is proven to achieve more positive oral language outcomes for children, more quickly (and cheaply) than other established services.

Doodle Den

Doodle Den is an after-school literacy programme targeted at children aged 5-6 in senior infants. It has child, parent, and family components with a strong emphasis on parental engagement and has been proven to achieve significant gains. The programme is currently being delivered to 255 children and their parents, mainly in Tallaght, Dublin's North Inner City and previously in Limerick.

Doodle Families

Doodle Families is a follow on Family Literacy Programme to Doodle Den with an increased emphasis on working with parents to develop their capacity to support children's learning. An initial programme was evaluated in Limerick – and a redesigned programme is currently being delivered in Limerick and Dublin.

Parental Support

CDI supports nine early years' services in Tallaght West through dedicated Parent Carer Facilitators (PCF), who work with parents to identify needs, offer support to address issues and access services, and promote achieving developmental milestones. In addition, PCFs deliver the Parents Plus parent education programme. Over 450 families receive Parental Support per annum in Tallaght West.

Restorative Practices

Restorative Practices is an approach to develop and sustain strong and happy organisations and communities by actively developing good relationships and preventing escalation of conflict. CDI has trained over 2,500 adults and 206 children in Restorative Practices. Evaluation of this work has consistently found that participants are readily able to use it; that workplace relationships improve and that conflicts can be resolved more quickly.

Ante-Natal to Three Initiative (ATTI)

The Ante-Natal to Three Initiative (ATTI) is an interagency collaboration that brings together primary care services, early years' organisations, the Coombe Women and Infants University Maternity Hospital, Tusla and family support services. The programme works to maximise the quality, co-ordination, collaboration and access to services for pregnant women and their children up to three years of age.

Family Links

This programme aims to improve the relationship of parents in prison with their children and partners, through increasing awareness amongst prison staff on the importance of prisoners maintaining good family relationships, and developing their capacity to support same; and delivering a bespoke parent education programme for parents in prison and their partners.

Quality Services Better Outcomes

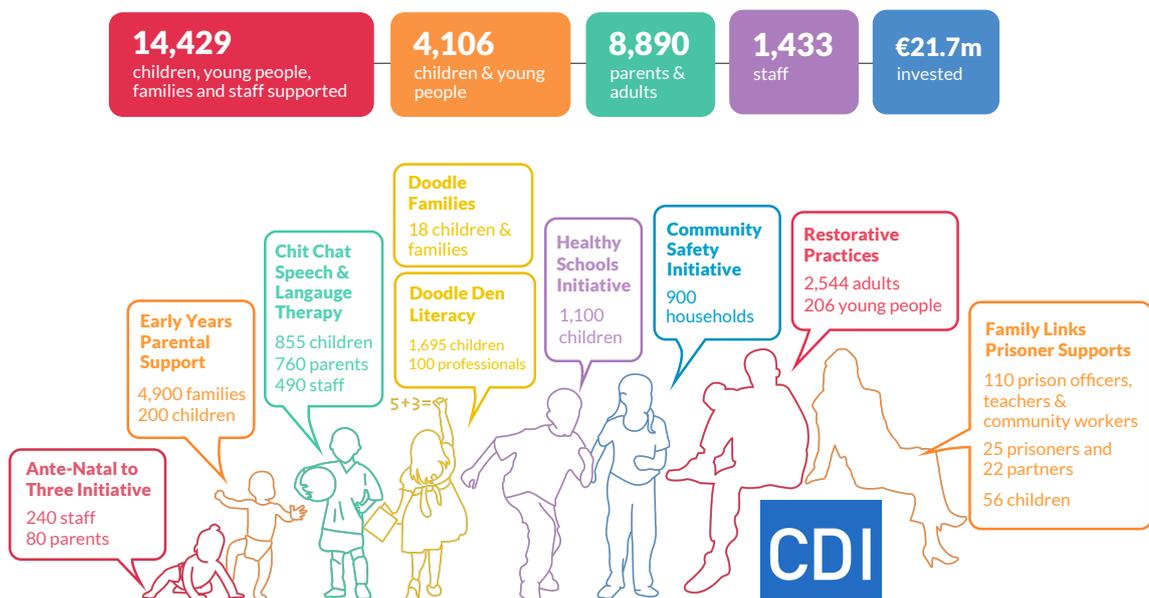
Quality Services Better Outcomes is a resource developed by CDI for frontline staff, service managers, organisations and communities to support and enhance them in their work to design, implement and evaluate evidence informed programmes and services for children, families and communities.

This is a growing and expansive area of CDI's work and includes five key areas through which CDI supports organisations:

- Using a logic model approach to design, plan and monitor;
- Developing the capacity of managers to coach for quality outcomes;
- Advising on organisational culture, assessing readiness to change and identifying supports needed;
- Mentoring on leadership approaches and changer management;
- Incorporating evaluation to measure outcomes.

Childhood Development Initiative: Impacts and Outcomes

Sept 2007 – Aug 2017



<p>Publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Research Evaluations 15 Policy Briefs 3 Implementation Guides 4 Community Reports & 2 Youth Surveys Quality Services Better Outcomes Workbook 36 CDI Publications Published 	<p>Online Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Learning & Videos www.twcdi.ie www.doodleden.ie www.parenting24seven.ie www.restorativepracticesireland.ie 	<p><i>Approximately 9,230 children live in Tallaght West meaning that CDI programmes have engaged with a major portion of the community and impacted on a significant amount of families in the area.</i></p>
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WHAT CDI CAN DO

In CDI's Vision for 2020 we plan:

- A) To continue developing, delivering and evaluating prevention and early intervention programmes in Tallaght West and beyond.
- B) To expand the commissioning of CDI's unique expertise to more services and communities at national level (outside of Tallaght West).

CDI is seeking political backing and support for this vision. Following are examples of new and expansive work that CDI could add value to in the future.

a) Restorative Practices Training for Health and Social Care Professionals

CDI is working with the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) to develop a Restorative Practices 'train the trainer' programme. This is being done within CDI's existing budget and has the potential to transform communication, behaviour and conflict management in schools and classrooms across the country for both teachers and pupils.

This model could be supported to work with many other professional areas within health and social care such as family support, social work, social care, youth and community work and Gardaí.

CDI is also keen to continue to play a leadership role in the establishment of Restorative Practices Ireland (RPI) as a self-sustaining organisation.

b) Incorporate Chit Chat into HSE services model and expand to all DEIS Schools

The evaluation of CDI's Chit Chat Speech and Language model identified service user and outcome benefits which exceed the existing HSE SLT model. The evaluation recommended that the Chit Chat model be incorporated into the HSE service nationwide.

CDI can work with the HSE to coordinate a phased roll out of the Chit Chat model to all DEIS Schools in Ireland, as proposed in the Programme for a Partnership Government. There is also an opportunity to support third level institutions to incorporate training on speech and language development and communication for early years professionals.

c) Expand Doodle Den to all DEIS School by 2020

The evaluation of CDI's Doodle Den literacy programme identified significant learning gains for pupils who took part. Doodle Den can be specifically targeted at schools and pupils most in need of these supports to strengthen future learning at an early stage.

There is an opportunity for CDI to work with providers such as the School Completion Programme across the education system to coordinate a phased expansion of Doodle Den, with a target of the programme being offered to all DEIS Schools by Sept 2020.

d) Support the development of child and family services

CDI has unique expertise in the design, delivery and evaluation of preventative child and family services – and this could be brought to the benefit of other providers. For example, there could be an opportunity to work with Family Resource Centres which are currently expanding their network. This could be to assist with the design of future services, using a Logic Model approach to plan services and to embed measurement structures to ensure intended outcomes.

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