



Early Intervention and Integration on a Shoestring

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Waltham Forest's Child Poverty Innovation Pilot

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&

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What does Waltham Forest look like?

- Around 16,000 children in Waltham Forest are growing up in poverty, which is about a third of all our children.
- The borough has nearly 22,000 working-age adults who are unemployed.
- Residents' abilities to secure jobs are reduced, as 20% of our population have no skills, which compares poorly with 12.8% for London.
- We also have nearly 2,000 families in the borough who live in temporary accommodation.
- In Waltham Forest, the non-FSM/ FSM gap in key stage one in 2007 was 11% in reading and 14% in writing. By GCSE, this gap has widened to 18%.



How does the 'More 4 U' project work?

The multi-agency delivery team consists of:

- Project Lead 0.5 – Sade Alade
- Project Manager – Rebecca Whitney
- 5 Family Support Advisors
- 2 Benefits Officers
- Health Visitor (unable to recruit)
- Housing Officer
- Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
- Project Assistant



How does the 'More 4 U' project work?

Family Partnership Model *“which is an innovative approach to working in partnership with families using an explicit model of the helping process”*

Requires the professional to move away from the 'expert model'.

Helping process - Exploration, understanding, goal setting, strategy planning, implementation and review



How does the 'More 4 U' project work?

The project focuses on six schools and children centres and their catchment areas. The areas selected contained the highest IMD and the greatest gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

- Woodside Primary School and Children Centre
- Downsell Primary School and Snowberry Children Centre
- Barclay Primary School and Children Centre
- Sybourn Primary School and Children Centre
- South Grove Primary School and Low Hall Children Centre
- Whitefields Special School



How does the 'More 4 U' project work?

Initial assessment visit

Family Support Advisor (FSA) and Benefits Officer carry out an initial joint visit to families with children aged between 2-5 years old living in the project areas and give an educational gift.

Intensive personalised support

If a family agrees to be part of the project they receive a second visit from the FSA who starts a more detailed assessment which facilitates development of action plan based on a pre-caf form.



How does the 'More 4 U' project work?

- Parenting Support
- Education Support
- Training Support
- Employment Support
- Benefit Entitlement
- Housing Advice
- Accessing Free Community Services
- Advocacy
- Signposting



How does the 'More 4 U' project work?

Key Project Outcomes

- Increase parental employment and access to services
- Raise family income, including the improved take up of tax credits and benefit, including local authority administered benefits
- Build capacity of communities to tackle poverty
- Reduce intergenerational poverty by increasing educational attainment of vulnerable children, narrowing the gap



Group Exercise



What makes 'More 4 U' low cost?

Parent Advisory Group – One of the project Children Centres donates a room for meetings.

Workshops – Designed by the project team to meet needs expressed by service users

Multi agency working - Families receiving personalised intensive multi disciplinary support from the Child Poverty Project costs £26.06 per family per day. Each family typically receives support, which costs on average £3,032.34.



Is More 4 U meeting its outcomes?

Increase parental employment and access to services

- 10 parents into employment or training through Worknet
- 100 families access children centre services through the project

Target exceeded – 20 parents in employment or training



More 4 U families

- 42.4% families have a disability
 - 16.3% Primary Carer
 - 21.2% Child
 - 4.92% Primary Carer and Child
- 53.7% of families are lone parent families
- 23.4 % of families are Pakistani and 21.6% of families are Black African
- 6.4% of families are Gypsy Roma Traveller



Is More 4 U meeting its outcomes?

Raise family income

- 7% of families visited awarded new tax credit and housing/council tax benefit

Target exceeded – 13.02% (25) of the project families are receiving newly awarded child tax credits or housing/council tax benefits.

Also, 7 families received a council tax refund; 3 are now receiving Child Benefit; 3 are now receiving Disability Living Allowance; 3 have accessed Social Fun monies.



Is More 4 U meeting its outcomes?

Raise family income

- 8% of families visited awarded new free school meals

Target not met – only 2.1% (4) families have been awarded free school meals because the majority of our families were already receiving it as the Housing Benefit Department proactively award FSM with successful Housing Benefit applications.



Is More 4 U meeting its outcomes?

Build capacity of communities to tackle poverty

- 50 new parents introduced to each other

Target exceeded – 144 parents have been introduced to one another at a total of 12 events held by the team.

- 15 parents form the Parents Advisory Group

Target not met – There are currently 13 members of the PAG.



Is More 4 U meeting its outcomes?

Reduce intergenerational poverty by increasing educational attainment of vulnerable children

- 10% stretch target increase in early foundation stage results (NI92) for all 5 schools in pilot area

Target not met – Data for schools in the project area will be collated and analysed in March 2011.



Is More 4 U meeting its outcomes?

Reduce intergenerational poverty by increasing educational attainment of vulnerable children

50% of families reporting increase in time spent reading with their children, based on questionnaires returned.

Target exceeded – Of the 56 family exit questionnaires 62.5% (35) reported spending more time reading with their children. 10 families 1-2 times a week; 4 families 3-4 times a week; 21 families Daily.

Also 21 parents have attended the 'Read & Play' workshops.



What happens after March 31st?

The Local Authority is proposing a restructure of Extended Services to create the Early Intervention and Prevention Service based on the model of the project.



For further information on the 'More 4 U' project
please contact

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