

**1. Name of SOA case study**

**Family Connexions – Three Towns**

**2. What was the local need addressed by this SOA case study?**

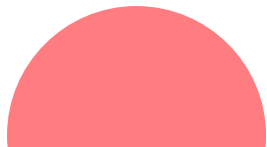
Family Connexions aims to provide support at the earliest opportunity to children and families – not only the most vulnerable families who may already be known to agencies, but also low risk families, to enable early intervention to prevent them becoming vulnerable.

**3. What was done – and by which partners?**

Funding for Family Connexions was identified by the Community Planning Partnership within unallocated Fairer Scotland Fund resources (known locally as the Fairer North Ayrshire Fund). £500,000 was identified for the period April 2009-March 2011. This enabled the CPP to offer new funding to support the implementation of the Early Years Framework locally.

The Early Years Partnership was consequently approached by the CPP to develop an initiative to support early intervention in the early years. An initial meeting was attended by a wide range of agencies - social services, education, police, housing, addiction services, maternity services, health visiting, public health, community psychiatric services, North Ayrshire Leisure, the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) implementation team, children’s services planning and the childcare partnership.

A multi-agency family support team was then established at Springvale Nursery Centre (from June 2009), offering support to families throughout the Three Towns of Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston. A co-ordinator and four family support staff have been drawn from NHS Ayrshire and Arran and North Ayrshire Council staff. The team are able to respond quickly to referrals and tailor support according to the needs of the family, including 1:1 support within the home e.g. pre and perinatal support, practical support in home making and healthy eating, support in child development, play, behaviour management. Staff encourage parents/carers to become involved in relevant group work or community groups and there is a focus on engaging with dads. The team also run groups to build the capacity of the parents to meet the challenges they face. They signpost parents to other agencies, e.g. to access literacy support, confidence building, employability etc.



#### 4. What is the evidence of the benefits for communities – or if the benefits are still to be delivered, what is the timeline for that?

The Family Connexions team only started work in June 2009, so it's early days in terms of measurable results. However they are already working with a number of local families, to provide customised, multi-agency packages of support. Targets for Year 1 (2009/10) include:

- Engagement with 30 vulnerable families
- Support to 20 low risk families
- 25 parents and children engaging with community groups and/or using local facilities
- 3 young mums groups established
- Support group for young men (fathers) established
- 10 family learning course taken place
- 10 people to attend ECDL and first steps ICT training
- 3 First Aid courses taken place
- 3 Home safety courses taken place

#### 5. What added value has the SOA process brought to the delivery of these benefits?

Clear link with Outcome 5a:  
Opportunities to support the positive development of vulnerable young children have increased

Also linkages with a range of other Outcomes, e.g. covering health, education, economic development, safety, poverty and partnership working etc.

The SOA makes explicit mention of the commitment to the early years and early intervention, as a key priority for the Community Planning Partnership.

## 6. What next steps are you taking to meet this local need?

At present, focusing on embedding Family Connexions into local service delivery, and continuing to raise awareness amongst families and service providers.

### Contact details of lead officer.

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