



Family Support Hubs

What is the CYPSP?

The **CYPSP** is a multiagency strategic partnership consisting of senior leaders of all key agencies across statutory, Community and Voluntary sectors. CYPSP is supported by the Strategic Planning and Performance Group of the Department of Health (SPPG/DoH) to support the Children's Services Planning (CSP) process. Early intervention is a key strategic aim of the CYPSP.

Structure of the CYPSP

- **Regional CYPSP**
- Sub groups and Task & Finish Groups focusing on cross cutting early intervention
- **5 Outcomes Groups** (aligned to Trust areas)- focus on need in that area, act as a coordination and planning space for early intervention and family support.
- **25 Locality Planning Groups** - focus on need at locality levels with a specific role to engage communities in discussion about how organisations can work together more effectively address needs in their locality area.
- **29 Family Support Hubs** across NI to ensure 100% coverage. The Hubs recognise some families do not meet the threshold for statutory child protection, yet have a need for family support services. Operational responsibility for each Hub is taken by a lead coordinating agency in each case.

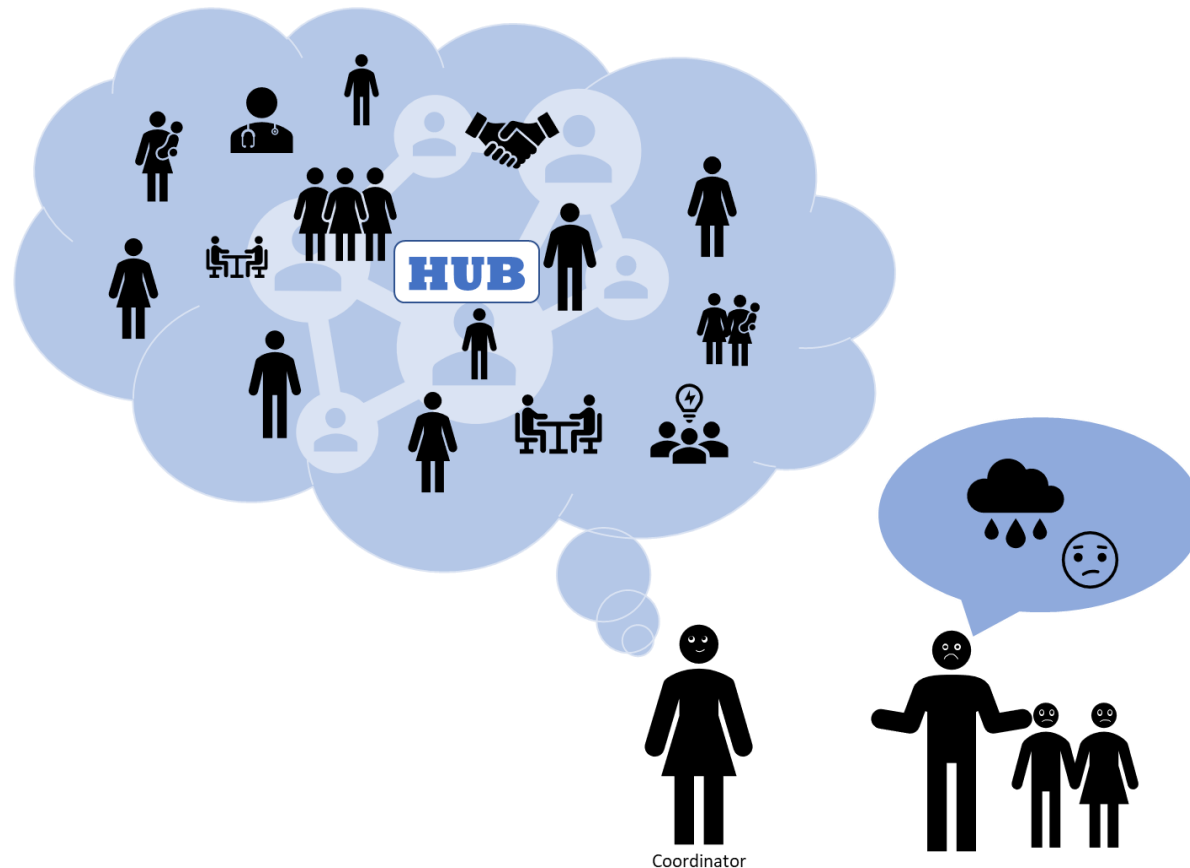


The Children's Services Co-Operation Act (Northern Ireland) 20153 states in 2 (1) that:

"Every Children's Authority must, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its children functions, co-operate with other children's authorities and with other children's services providers in the exercise of those functions"

What is a Family Support Hub?

When we talk about a **Family Support Hub** we are not talking about a single organisation or a building. A Family Support Hub is the network of organisations from across the community, voluntary and statutory services who provide early intervention services.



There are 29 Family Support Hubs across the region ensuring 100% geographical coverage. They are hosted by a range of community, Voluntary and statutory sector organisations.

What is the purpose of the Hubs?



- To improve access to early intervention family support services by matching the needs of referred families to family support providers.
- To improve coordination of early intervention family support services through a collaborative network of community, voluntary and statutory providers.
- To improve awareness of early intervention family support services.
- To report the unmet need for early intervention family support services in their locality and bring this to the attention of the Locality Planning groups and Outcomes Groups.

Hub Coordinators and their host organisations are **not service providers**, although some host organisation may provide services as Hub members. They use their expert knowledge of what is available in that area and match services to the needs of each family. Accountability for service delivery directly to families is the responsibility of each Hub member who accepts a referral from the Hub. They do not continue their role beyond connecting families to members.

Referral criteria



You can refer a family to a Family Support Hub if they:

- Live in Northern Ireland
- Have a child or Young person under the age of 18
- Are not open to Children's Social Services or CAMHS Tier 3 (with the exception of children known to Children with Disabilities Teams)
- Have been opened to social services but are now closing as they have been assessed as no longer requiring statutory social work support. Closure cannot be on the grounds of the family engaging with support through Hubs.
- **THE FAMILY HAVE GIVEN INFORMED CONSENT**

Who can refer to a Hub?



- Families can self-refer to the Hubs for support and are encouraged to do so.
- Hubs can accept referrals from a range of professionals and are making the referral on behalf of the family. Parents and families MUST have given consent for a referral and taking up services offered through the Hub is entirely voluntary.
- A family can change their mind about accepting a referral or service at any time. Referrals without consent will not be accepted.

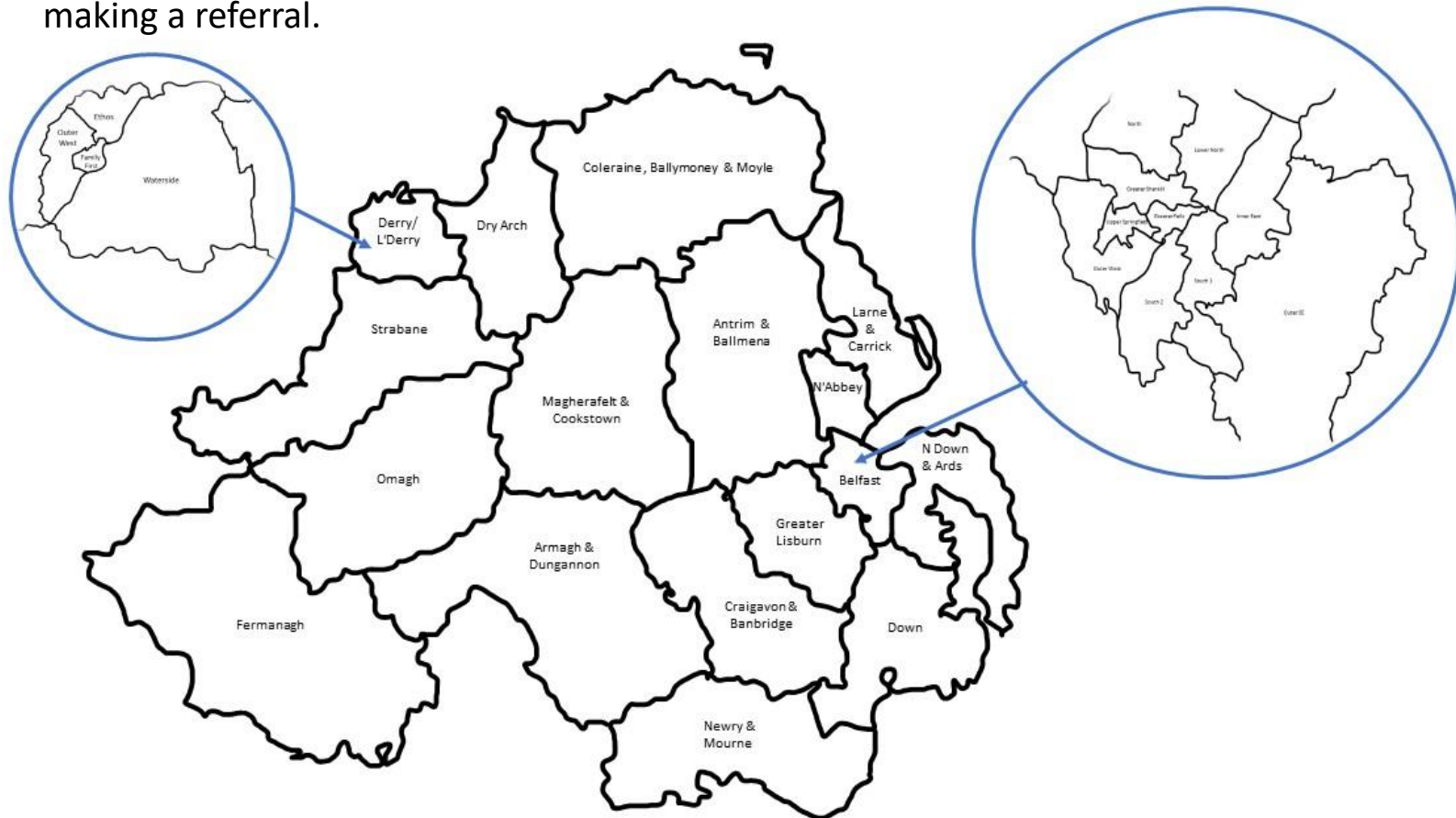
How do I make a referral?




- The Family Support Hubs are developing a single referral form across all 29 Hubs. In the interim the current Family Support Hub referral forms can be found on the CYPSP website or by contacting your Family Support Hub Coordinator
- **Families can self-refer by completing the referral form or they can contact the Hub Coordinator for their area who will be able to help them with the referral.**
- Professionals should fully complete the referral form and ensure they have explained what the Hubs are and what will happen following a referral with the family. Professionals must gain the consent of the family and record this appropriately on the referral form.
- Incomplete referral forms from professionals will not be accepted and will be returned.

How do I find the right Hub?

- Maps of Hubs and a contact list for the Hub Coordinators on the CYPSP website (<https://cypsp.hscni.net/family-support-hubs/>) The website also includes a useful guide to identifying the appropriate Belfast Hub by Ward area.
- If in doubt about what Hub to refer to, please contact the Hub Coordinator before making a referral.





For further information please contact
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