

Cowdenbeath Early Years Collaborative Hub: Building Brighter Futures Together

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Our vision is to empower early years practitioners across education, 3rd sector and health to feel confident and well-equipped in supporting children and families. Through a collaborative, multi-agency approach, support will be sustained through self-help, universal and targeted approaches wherever possible. Practitioners and families will be informed and able to identify when more individualised support is needed, and will understand how to access it effectively.

Drivers

From before they are born, all babies and young children experience the nurturing care they need to develop to their full potential
Aim: To reduce the proportion of children with developmental concerns at 27-30 months by a quarter by 2030 (from 18% to 13.5%)

Impact areas	Nurturing care*	Wider world
Support caregivers' well-being & capacity to provide nurturing care*	Caregivers have the security, time and resources to provide nurturing care to all children Caregivers have the knowledge and confidence to provide nurturing care High quality, timely support at the right time, while needed, including supervision	Knowledge about the importance of early child development and the impact of poverty, leads to more supportive behaviours People live in places that are safe and family-friendly, can have trusted relationships and feel part of the community
Create a culture, environment, economy and society that enhances early child development	Headline support to have the knowledge, confidence, resources and willing to support families and caregivers to be able to provide nurturing care	We improve on wider factors affecting early child development, including the economy, poverty, housing, air quality, pollution, climate, violence, physical environment and social inequalities
Integrate policies and services, ensuring they are evidence-based, family-centred and responsive to need	Integrated policies and services Investment is aligned to reflect the evidence on primary prevention, addressing needs, inequality and quality of care Policies and services that impact on early child development are integrated through a shared evidence base, common language and governance and communication structures Working systems responsibilities are predictable and consistency and data are shared and used to inform planning, monitoring and improvement Local partnerships can break down silos to implement evidence-driven policies and apply the GERIC principles to ensure that reflect local and community needs and level experience Children's services, public services and services commissioners can change the proportion of ECE, and the need to take a whole system approach <small>*nutrition & health - play & stimulation - sensitive responsive caregiving - safe from harm</small>	

Early Child Development - CYPIC

- Practitioners working with children and families face increasing challenges related to the impact of poverty, inequality, and complex needs.
- An approach is needed to align with Fife's strategic priorities – supporting prevention & early intervention, reducing inequalities, strengthening community based support, and ensuring children grow up loved, safe and respected.
- Currently there is a lack of protected opportunities for early years practitioners across sectors to come together to collaborate, learn, problem solve and share best practice.
- This is essential for an effective whole system approach to tackle the magnitude of the presenting challenges.

Our Idea

Established in 2019 by a Speech and Language Therapist, an Occupational Therapist, and an Early Years Head Teacher, the Cowdenbeath Early Years Collaborative Hub aims to improve outcomes for young children and families.

Meeting termly, it offers morning and afternoon sessions for all local early years professionals, providing a safe, inclusive space for shared learning, reflective dialogue, and collaborative problem-solving—empowering practitioners to grow and enhance the quality of care.

Reach

To date we have held 45 Hubs with over 350 professionals attending. The following children's services have supported us to build this collaborative learning space.



I found it helpful about promoting and helping coach families to be more involved in their child's play.

I'm so pleased I can now give solid advice to families and colleagues. I can help support families solve issues for themselves.

I particularly enjoyed the sharing of good practice from all involved and it was a fantastic opportunity to ask any questions in an informal way.

Wonderful forum to reinforce the importance of a coordinated, integrated approach.



Outcomes and Impact of Hubs

Semi-structured interviews were completed with regular attendees to gather further qualitative data regarding the impact of attending the Hubs.

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES TOGETHER

THE HUB PROVIDES A SPACE FOR

- STRONGER SUPPORT NETWORKS**
Stronger connections among practitioners fosters a deeper sense of support and shared purpose.
- ENHANCED CHILD SUPPORT**
Growing expertise and early access to resources improves support for children in nursery settings.
- CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**
Hubs help practitioners keep up to date and utilise best practice.
- KNOWLEDGE SHARING**
Learning from Hubs is actively shared across wider teams.
- ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTS**
Enriched environments with positive play opportunities supports healthy child development.
- EXPANDING SKILLS**
Staff report greater knowledge and strategies for supporting development.
- CONFIDENCE IN COLLABORATION**
Staff feel more assured in seeking guidance from other professionals.

Developments & Next Steps

Following the success of the Early Years Collaborative Hub in Cowdenbeath, colleagues in Kirkcaldy replicated the model providing locally tailored sessions that have received strong engagement and positive feedback.

To build on this momentum, we are seeking to scale and strengthen the Hub approach by promoting it as a best-practice model across Fife thus embedding a whole-system strategy for early intervention and prevention.

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