

CVS Inverclyde

Report on Family Support Services in Inverclyde and Home-Start UK

2009

Acknowledgements

CVS Inverclyde would like to thank everyone who participated in this research. Without the support of all participants, this report could not have been written.

Many thanks are offered to the voluntary and statutory services who participated in the research. Also to the workers and members of the community who completed questionnaires offering their knowledge and opinions on family support services in the area.

Abstract

The objective of this research was to identify if there is a need for a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde. The aim of the research was to establish the range of family support services that are being delivered in Inverclyde and discover if Home-Start would complement the services that are already in existence.

The following commentary explains the relevance of Home-Start in delivering family support to communities.

Home-Start is a family support service that provides tailored, personalised support to families with children under five years old, in their own homes and in groups. Volunteers are recruited and trained to offer support and friendship to other parents/carers through home visiting, via family and specialist groups and through social events.

The research methodology used in this research was qualitative and quantitative. Questionnaires were designed for interviews with professionals working in the area of family support, which provided a qualitative approach to discovering their opinions about Home-Start and their knowledge and experience of family support services in Inverclyde. Another style of questionnaire was designed that would provide a quantitative measure of people's opinions on Home-Start and family support provision in Inverclyde. The latter questionnaire was distributed to members of the community.

The research reviewed literature and legislation that is pertinent to the family support needs in Inverclyde, highlighting the priority aims of Government regarding equalities and early intervention policies.

The results of the research have been analysed to review family support in Inverclyde, identify any gaps and discover if the development of a Home-Start scheme would complement the family support services already being delivered to families.

It is hypothesised that a Home-Start scheme would deliver a family support service to the community of Inverclyde that would complement the well-developed family support services already in existence. Also, that a Home-Start service would meet some of the priority aims of the Scottish Government's Early Years Framework publication.

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Introduction

This research has involved collating information from various sources including: the Home-Start national website; Local community organisations (voluntary and statutory); Scottish Government website; NHS website and Inverclyde Council.

The information collated was useful in developing an understanding of family support services that are being delivered in Inverclyde and comprehending the position of Home-Start in the UK. Also, revealing how the services link with the Government's aims and objectives on Early Interventions, Health inequalities, and Tackling poverty.

There is a review of literature and legislation that considers the issues and needs in Inverclyde.

Two target groups were approached including: professionals whose work involves delivering some form of family support to the community; and members of the community – some of whom use family support services and others who have stated that they wish to contribute their opinions about family support in Inverclyde.

The results of the questionnaires that were completed by both groups have been analysed and the findings have been displayed on pie charts. Furthermore, some of the comments that have been made by individuals are reported and discussed.

The information that was collated throughout the research has been analysed and evaluated.

Discussion takes place on the findings and outcomes of the research.

The research is summed up in the conclusion and consideration is given to the next stage of the pursuit of the development of a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde.

Literature Review

In order to understand the implications of family support needs in communities, it is necessary to revise various policies and legislation created by Government. Also, to review studies that have been carried out on inequalities that exist in communities with particular emphasis on the Inverclyde area.

The most up-to-date legislation on family support in communities that aims to enable and empower people to achieve their personal potential is the Early Years Framework.

This document was published in January 2009. The publication indicates the commitment being made by the Scottish Government and CoSLA to recognise those interventions that are required at the earliest years of a child's life and their future development.

The framework recognises that 'It is increasingly evident that inequalities in health, education and employment opportunities are passed from one generation to another. The framework signals local and national government's joint commitment to break this cycle through prevention and early intervention and give every child in Scotland the best start in life' (Scottish Government, 2009, topics).

The Executive Summary of the Early Years Framework states 'For the purposes of this framework, we are defining early years as pre-birth to 8 years old. This broad definition of early years is a recognition of the importance of pregnancy in influencing outcomes and that the transition into primary school is a critical period in children's lives... The vision

establishes a new conceptualisation of early years - that children should be valued and provided for within communities; the importance of strong, sensitive relationships with parents and carers; the right to a high quality of life and access to play; the need to put children at the centre of service delivery; to provide more support through universal services when children need it; and that children should be able to achieve positive outcomes irrespective of race, disability or social background' (Scottish Government, 2009, Executive Summary).

Chapter 5 of the framework has particular relevance to this study on family support in Inverclyde, as it highlights the 'Priorities for Action'. It is anticipated that 'the Scottish Government and local partners will work together to develop a co-ordinated approach to early years, health inequalities and poverty at a national and local level' by prioritising 'a renewed focus on services from pregnancy through to age 3 as a key opportunity to build resilience and break cycles of poor outcomes'. This would be achieved by 'taking opportunities to break into cycles of poor outcomes at key stages' (Scottish Government, 2009, Ch.5).

The aim of the Scottish Government is to 'work with partners to design and commission a social marketing campaign that supports parenting skills and promotes the value of parenting'. The objective is to develop 'mutual support networks for parents and other carers' and provide 'opportunities for parents to get involved in services as volunteer helpers or similar roles'. Another priority is to 'Support grandparents and informal carers who spend significant amounts of time with care of children'. The outcome would be that 'parents feel better supported and have improved parenting' (Scottish Government, 2009, Ch.5).

Inverclyde Council has recognised the priorities of the Early Years Framework, consequently, submitting a report to the Inverclyde Alliance Board meeting on 26th January 2009. A decision was made ‘that approval be given to the policy imperatives within the Early Years Framework and support be given to the Early Years Framework in future actions’ (Inverclyde Alliance Board, 2009, section 7).

Another document that gives pertinence to this study is ‘The Community Health and Wellbeing Profile for Inverclyde’ (2008), which was compiled by Glasgow Centre for Population Health in collaboration with the Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. This publication highlights concerns about health and social inequalities in Inverclyde.

The profile provides statistical information on: Population; Life expectancy and mortality; Behaviour; Hospitalisation/Social Work; Mental health & function; Prosperity/poverty; Crime; and Child & Maternal health.

It is indicated that ‘Inverclyde has a population of approximately 81,500 people, of whom 18% are children, 65% are young and middle-aged adults and 17% are older people’ (gcph, 2008, p.6). There were 840 babies born in 2006, however, the population has reduced in size over the last ten years.

Life expectancy for men in Inverclyde is 70.9 years and life expectancy for women is 77.8 years. These estimates are three years lower than the Scottish average age for life expectancy. There is a difference in life expectancy in the different areas of Inverclyde, with some men living

over 11 years longer than others and women living over 13 years longer than others dependent on which neighbourhood they reside.

The publication reveals that 19.3% of the population are income deprived and 18.8% are employment deprived. Teenage pregnancy in Inverclyde is 15% above the national average.

These statistics indicate areas of inequalities within Inverclyde as well as comparisons with national statistics.

Methodology

This research was interested in discovering the extent of family support services being delivered in Inverclyde and to identify any gaps that could be filled by a Home-Start scheme.

It was concluded that the most appropriate method of research that would be inductive in gathering information about family support services in the area was a qualitative approach. Hence, questionnaires were created that could be used in interviews with workers. The questions were aimed at: extracting information about services and facilities in the area; gathering opinions on Home-Start and its compliance with the priority aims of Government.

The other requirement of the research was to gather the opinions of the people who would potentially use a Home-Start service. Consequently, another questionnaire was created for members of the community that provided a quantitative measure of the number of people who supported the concept of a Home-Start scheme.

The initial list of local contacts was extracted from the CVS Inverclyde database, the telephone directory and the internet. This was added to throughout the research due to further links being supplied by workers that were interviewed.

It was necessary to have as much information as possible about the Home-Start organisation to present to the workers and the community. Therefore, information was collated from the Home-Start national website to establish: The aims and objectives of the Home-Start

organisation; Projects already running throughout the UK (with particular interest in projects running in Scotland); Management of a scheme; Support provided to local schemes by the umbrella organisation; and Structure & History of Home-Start.

A portfolio of the information collated was created and built upon throughout the research.

The first contact made with Home-Start Scotland was on 3rd February 2009 to request an information pack and enquiries were made about starting up a Home-Start project in Inverclyde. Subsequently, a meeting was arranged for 18th February with Home-Start's regional Development Officer and the Co-ordinator of the Home-Start scheme in Renfrewshire.

The outcomes of this meeting involved: A manual was supplied on starting up a local Home-Start scheme, providing useful information on: Identifying a need in the local community for this type of service; Support provided by the regional consultant; Getting the community involved; and Governance. Additionally, discussion took place on the practicalities of managing a scheme, funding, service delivery and potential contacts.

Contacts were made with various statutory and voluntary organisations in Inverclyde, resulting in interviews being carried out with professionals using the designated questionnaires. Organisations that were approached included Social Work Department, Integrated Children's Services, Education Services, Health Services, Family Support Services, Community Resource Centres, Children's Centres, Nurseries, Carers & Toddlers groups etc. Further links to other organisations, professionals

and community groups were obtained from these interviews, which provided the opportunity to expand the focus of the research.

Visits were made to various centres in the community and questionnaires were distributed to the service-users alongside presentation of information about Home-Start.

Posters were displayed in local venues and an appeal was advertised in the CVS Inverclyde newsletter for people to come forward to support the potential development of a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde.

As a result of this outreach, thirty-six workers were interviewed and one hundred members of the community completed questionnaires. The information gathered was organised via a spreadsheet and the results have been displayed on pie charts.

Research Findings

The core questions of this research were aimed at discovering: whether there is the need for more family support services in the Inverclyde area; the relevance of a Home-Start service in filling any identified gap in need; and the prospect that Home-Start UK corresponds with some of the priority aims of Government. In addition, other questions were asked that sought the opinions of workers and members of the community regarding Home-Start and the availability of family support in the area.

The two target groups included: professionals working in the area of family support in Inverclyde; and members of the community who had some interest in family support services in the area.

The questionnaires that were distributed to members of the community contained seven questions. Some questions requested yes or no answers and others were open-ended providing the opportunity to make personal comments. The questions were aimed at gathering people's opinions on family support needs in the Inverclyde area and the potential benefit of a Home-Start service to the area.

The questionnaires that were completed in face-to-face interviews with workers contained four questions. The aims of the questions were to draw knowledge and information about family support services in the area, opinions on Home-Start and gather any support that would be useful to the research and the pursuit of a Home-Start scheme.

The one hundred questionnaires that were completed by the members of the community revealed that ninety-six respondents believed that there

was a need for a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde and four respondents did not think that there was a need. Seventy respondents stated that they would use a Home-Start type service, twenty-nine people would not and one didn't know. Eighty-four respondents thought that there is not enough family support in Inverclyde, six believed that there is enough family support in the area and ten didn't know.

The above data is presented on the following pie charts. Figure 1 displays in portions, that 96% of respondents believe that there is a need for a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde and 4% do not think that there is a need. Figure 2 shows that 70% of respondents have stated that they would use a Home-Start type service, whereas 29% of people would not and 1% didn't know. Figure 3 displays that 84% of respondents thought that there is not enough family support in Inverclyde, 6% believe that there is enough family support in the area and 10% don't know what family support is available.

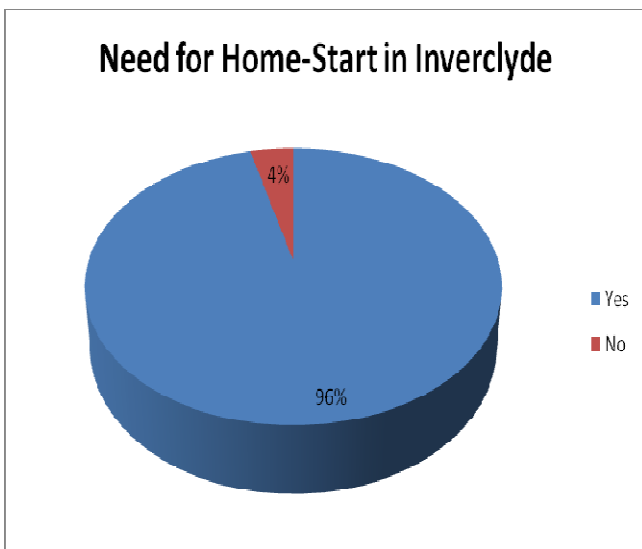


Figure 1

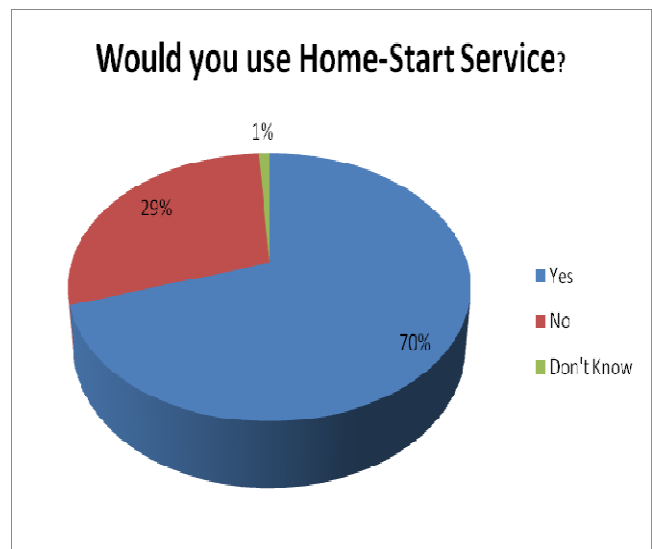


Figure 2

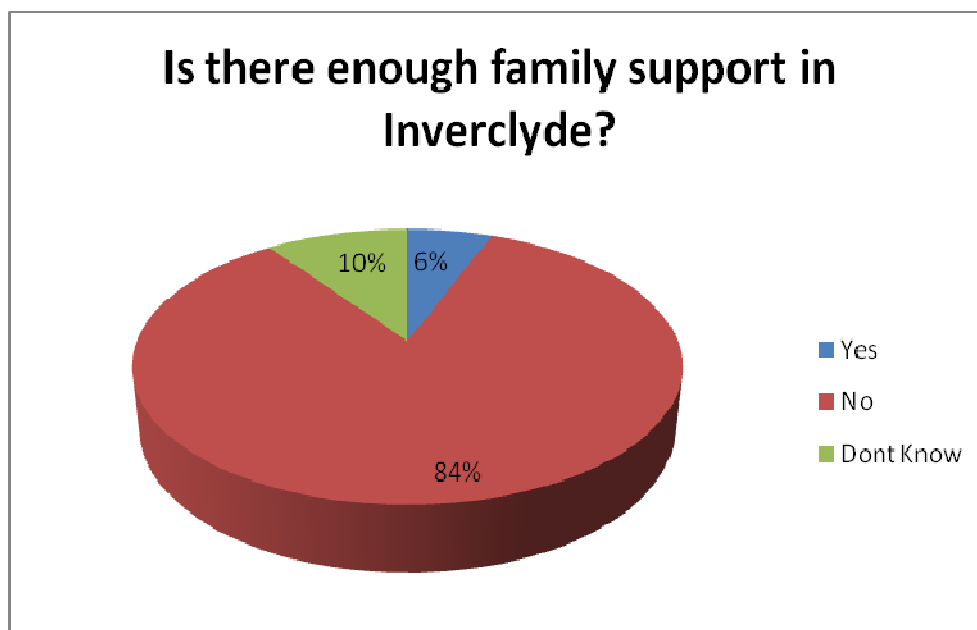


Figure 3

The other questions asked of the one hundred members of the community included: ‘Have you used any family support services before?’; ‘How many children do you have under five years old?’ ‘Would you consider coming along to a discussion group to hear more about Home-Start?; and ‘Would you consider becoming a member of a steering group to pursue the development of a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde?’

The following table provides the proportional number of respondents’ answers to these questions.

Have you used any family support services before?	How many children do you have under five years old?	Would you consider coming along to a discussion group to hear more about Home-Start?	Would you consider becoming a member of a steering group to pursue the development of a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde?
33 stated Yes	59 have one child under 5	54 stated Yes	36 stated Yes
67 stated No	17 have more than one pre5 child	46 stated No	62 stated No
	24 have no children under 5		2 were unsure

Some of the respondents felt that there is some ambiguity about the title 'family support'. Discussion took place in some of the groups about what is deemed as family support. It was surprising to some people that attending a Carers/Parents & Toddlers group was a form of family support. It was expressed that the title 'family support' held connotations of receiving intense support by Social Work services.

Not all of the respondents approached had children under five years old, however, were keen to support the prospect of more family support for young families, as they themselves had been in the same position previously. Some of the respondents were grandparents who cared for their grandchildren.

The response to the invitation to participate in a discussion about Home-Start has been excellent with 54% of respondents providing contact details. It is also inspiring that 36% of respondents would consider

becoming a member of a steering group, suggesting that they feel quite strongly about the need for more family support in Inverclyde.

Various comments were made by respondents regarding lack of information about family support in the area and the need for more support to be made available.

Nine respondents stated that there was not enough information available about family support services. Some comments included: 'Not sure what is currently available, if anything/no information'; 'There might be, it's just not advertised enough to everyone'; 'It's just finding out where the support is'; 'Not aware of any family support outwith the health visitor for the first few weeks'; 'Some people are not sure of going to different places, I moved here and did not know anyone'.

Twenty-seven of the respondents made comments about the need for more family support in Inverclyde. Sample comments included: 'Not much in Inverclyde'; 'Parents that are working don't have enough support'; 'Inverclyde is very much in need of services to support families with complex issues'; 'Given the present climate, I believe there is a need for preventative work'; 'Good support for mothers, less for fathers'; 'We require more support for under fives as there is not enough activities in Inverclyde'; 'Specifically young families with a single parent who need someone to go into the home and help them with parenting skills'; 'Families are just expected to get on with it after having children, however, that is easier said than done'; 'I have 2 babies under two – during the early times at home, I could have used some support in the house and it may have helped with feelings of anxiety and stress'.

The second part of the research involved interviewing professionals working in family support in Inverclyde. This was useful in finding out about the family support that is being delivered to the community, obtain further links to community organisations and groups and gain knowledge about statistics and legislation. There was also the opportunity to find out their opinions on Home-Start as a family support service. The general consensus was that Home-Start would be useful in complementing the services already being delivered in the area.

The results of the thirty-six face-to-face interviews carried out with workers revealed that thirty-two respondents agreed that there was a need for a Home-Start service, with many commenting that any support for families is welcome, and four respondents didn't know if there was a need for a Home-Start service. Thirty-two of the workers interviewed agreed that Home-Start's service delivery corresponds with the Government's policies on priority aims including addressing inequalities and tackling poverty. One respondent didn't believe so and three workers didn't know.

This data is presented on the following pie charts. Figure 4 displays in portions, that 89% of the workers interviewed agreed that there was a need for a Home-Start service in Inverclyde and 11% didn't know if there was a need for a Home-Start service. Figure 5 presents the results of the interviews, which reveal that 89% of the respondents agreed that the aims and objectives of Home-Start relates to the Government's policies on priority aims of addressing inequalities and tackling poverty. 3% of respondents didn't agree with this and 8% of workers didn't know.

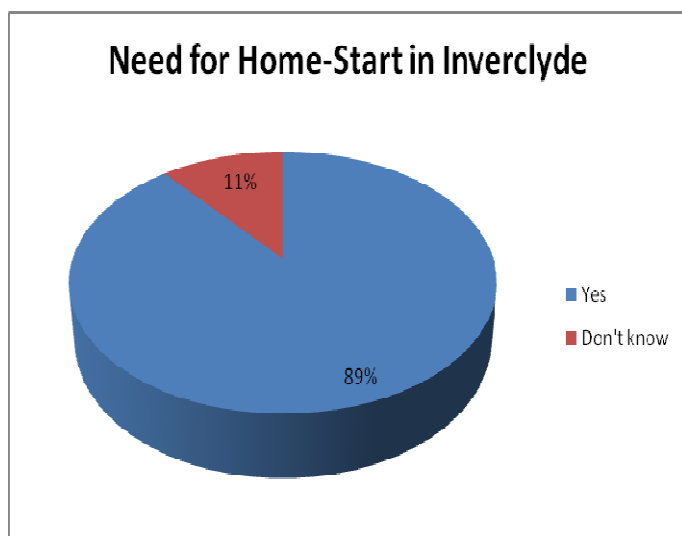


Figure 4

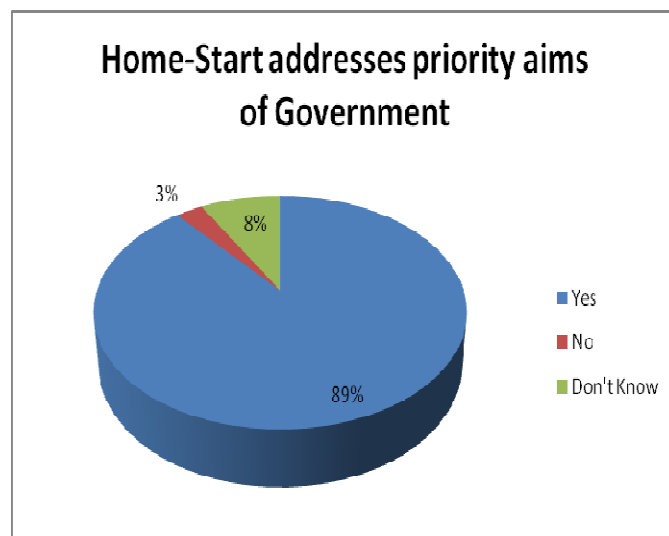


Figure 5

The other two questions asked of the workers on the questionnaires were: ‘To your knowledge, are there any family support services being delivered to young families with children under 5 years old in Inverclyde?’; and ‘Would you consider offering your support in formulating a steering group to pursue the development of a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde or contribute resources or provide other contacts or statistical information?’

The results from these questions were very positive, as the majority of workers were prepared to offer some type of support to the research. This consisted of: professional knowledge of family support services being delivered to the community; links to local organisations and groups; support in distributing questionnaires; information on legislation and statistics. Many workers were interested in participating in the discussion about the potential of a Home-Start service being developed in Inverclyde, however, could not commit to participating in forming a

steering group. Only three workers offered to become involved in the formation of a steering group. Furthermore, many of the workers anticipated that their organisations could link in with the Home-Start service should it materialise.

Overall, the findings of the research signified that many of the respondents have a positive approach to the prospect of the development of a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde.

Discussion

The purpose of this research was to identify any gaps in family support services in Inverclyde that may be filled by a Home-Start scheme.

Face-to-face interviews were carried out with thirty-six workers to establish the family support services that are being delivered to the area. This research revealed an impressive variety of family support in Inverclyde as follows.

Social Work services provide a range of support including: Support for individual families that is specific to needs; Support workers attached to children's centres and health visitors; Individual casework involving approximately 24 workers supporting approximately 60/70 families in different need-based support.

Education services have employed family support workers based in nurseries and children's centres to provide support to families. There is a range of support delivered including: Individual support specific to needs; Parents/Carers & toddlers groups; Rhymetime sessions; Group activities and personal development support.

Health services provide a variety of family support including: Health Visitors; Oral health support for families; and Breast feeding peer groups.

A range of activities are being delivered to communities through collaborative working between Social Work, Education and Health services. These include: Mellow parenting; SleepScotland; SNPS

(Special Needs in Pregnancy Service); Baby massage; and Handling children's behaviour.

Community Resource Centres provide an informal style of family support by providing facilities such as crèches to allow the parents/carers of young children to participate in activities. However, concerns were raised throughout the research about the reduction in crèche services impacting on service delivery. Additionally, Parents/Carers & Toddlers groups were held at many of the centres.

A variety of informal family support is delivered to the community by various voluntary and church organisations. This ranges from drop-in centres to Parents/Carers & Toddlers groups.

Workers in various organisations that provide children's services spoke about the flexible and wrap around services that are provided for families. This may involve collaborative working with various statutory and voluntary organisations. Examples of which are: Financial advice; Crèches supporting participation in a variety of activities; Parenting activities; Parenting again support etc.

Other voluntary organisations such as Quarriers and Barnardo's deliver a variety of family support to communities that are specific to needs.

The research attempted to collate as much information as possible about family support services being delivered in Inverclyde. However, there are limitations to research and it became apparent that the subject of family support has a particularly wide remit.

Throughout the research some workers indicated that Home-Start could be beneficial in continuing the support that is provided to families. It was expressed that there are often concerns that people may lapse after support is withdrawn by services. Since Home-Start's delivery is more informal it may lead to encouraging independence in families.

It was considered that a Home-Start service may also provide preventative measures for some families, as issues may be addressed when identified at the early stages, consequently, preventing further difficulties emerging.

The comment made by a member of the community, mentioned earlier in the research findings, suggested that she would have welcomed preventative support at the early stage of facing difficulties with caring for her young children. She stated in the questionnaire 'I have 2 babies under two – during the early times at home, I could have used some support in the house and it may have helped with feelings of anxiety and stress' (member of community).

One of the concerns that the community raised in the research was the lack of information about family support services. A Home-Start service may help to raise people's awareness about services, as volunteers would be able to share knowledge and experiences about local activities. This could be particularly useful in encouraging non-participants to access services, as the aim of the Home-Start service is to build the confidence and self-esteem of parents/carers of young children in a non-threatening environment in their own home.

Another concern that was raised was the limited family support available in Inverclyde. Various comments were made regarding this issue. Examples included: ‘We require more support for under fives as there is not enough activities in Inverclyde’; and ‘Good support for mothers, less for fathers’ (members of community).

These outcomes of the research indicate that more family support is needed in the area. Therefore, the case may be made for the potential development of a Home-Start scheme in the area, as Home-Start would provide a flexible family support service that is tailored to the personal needs of the user. Moreover, the cost of a local Home-Start scheme is relatively low, as staffing consists of a full-time co-ordinator and a part-time administration worker. The majority of the family support is provided by volunteers. A sample Home-Start scheme that was visited during this research had twenty active volunteers working in the local area delivering family support to young families.

According to the Executive Summary in the Early Years Framework there is ‘the need to put children at the centre of service delivery; to provide more support through universal services when children need it’ (Scottish Government, 2009, Executive Summary).

A Home-Start service in Inverclyde could contribute to addressing this need, as it is a universal service that is available to all members of the community who identify a need for support in caring for their young families. People can access the service informally without the need to contact formal services.

Chapter 5 of the Early Years framework is dedicated to improving outcomes for children in communities. There is discussion on ‘Priorities for Action’, which considers short-term actions, medium-term priorities and longer-term objectives. There is recognition that there is the need to ‘focus on services from pregnancy through to age 3 as a key opportunity to build resilience and break cycles of poor outcomes’ (Scottish Government, 2009, Ch.5). It is anticipated that the Scottish Government will ‘work with partners to design and commission a social marketing campaign that supports parenting skills and promotes the value of parenting’ (Scottish Government, 2009, Ch.5). It has also been identified that outcomes may be achieved by developing ‘opportunities for parents to get involved in services as volunteer helpers or similar roles’ which would result in ‘parents feeling better supported and having improved parenting skills’ (Scottish Government, 2009, Ch.5).

The Home-Start service could contribute to achieving these outcomes, as the objective is to support families who are caring for children from 0 to 5 years old.

Throughout this research, it became apparent that the 0 to 3 years age-group is less catered for in children’s services. However, the framework has indicated that priorities need to be from pregnancy through to age 3 as this is an important stage in the child’s life. The support provided to parents/carers at this crucial stage in the child’s life could impact on their social skills, personal development and interaction with people. If the parent/carer is under pressure, suffering from stress/anxiety, there could be repercussions for the child as well as the parent/carer.

Alongside other services, Home-Start could impact on preventing these negative outcomes for children. Through volunteers working with parents/carers on dealing with issues that they may be facing, the sharing of their problems may remove some of the pressure and stress. Additionally, volunteer support may impact on the parenting skills by helping to build the confidence and self-esteem of parents/carers creating a more relaxed environment for the child.

Another priority of the Early Years Framework is to ‘Support grandparents and informal carers who spend significant amounts of time with care of children’ (Scottish Government, 2009, Ch.5).

Comparatively, a comment was made by a worker during this research who stated: ‘Port Glasgow has good community relations in that families provide support to each other, which helps to remove the difficulties of isolation, however, pressure can be placed upon grandparents to take on childcare roles and can cause some stress’ (family support worker).

It would appear, from the findings of this research, that there is the need for more family support in Inverclyde. The family support that is being delivered by the various services in the area is well-developed and good work is being carried out. However, there appears to be a limit to support and not all areas of need are being met. The priority aims of Government are particularly keen to develop services to address the needs of the 0 to 3 years age-group, which is the group at the heart of the Home-Start service delivery.

Conclusion

It became apparent throughout the research that family support in Inverclyde is well-developed, however, there appears to be limited availability. Consequently, this may result in some people being excluded from receiving family support and having the accepted belief that they should 'just struggle on'. Most of the family support services that are being delivered in Inverclyde appear to be more specific in their approach, i.e. support is provided that is reactive to needs.

In comparison, the Home-Start service provides a universal approach to family support by outreaching to families who choose to contact the service for support as well as those families who are referred by organisations. This approach is less formal and is pro-active in its provision of family support.

Some of the priorities of the Early Years Framework that Home-Start identifies with are: 'children should be valued and provided for within communities; the importance of strong, sensitive relationships with parents and carers; the need to put children at the centre of service delivery; to provide more support through universal services when children need it' (Scottish Government, 2009, Executive Summary).

Home-Start would be able to link with services to provide the necessary support to achieve these outcomes. This would be achieved through people supporting each other in developing their parenting skills through shared learning. Consequently, placing children's needs as a priority, as the support provided to parents/carers would result in improved relationships between parents/carers and their children, subsequently,

leading to informal learning within families to improve children's development. The learning that the child would receive in the internal proximity of the family could be more beneficial to the child than any external learning.

The concerns that arose in the research included: there is not enough information about family support services; and there is limited availability of family support services. People had indicated that young families were 'just expected to get on with it after having children, however, that is easier said than done' (parent/carer).

The research findings have indicated that there is limited family support for families with children under three years old. It would appear that most of the children's services are aimed at children over three years and since many of the family support workers are linked to nurseries or children's centres, there are families with children under three who have no opportunity to communicate with family support workers.

This point could prove a case for developing a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde, as the targeted group for the provision of family support by Home-Start is families with children under five years.

Furthermore, as well as Home-Start providing family support to those families who have recognised that they would benefit from help in caring for young children, opportunities are provided for local people to support others in caring for their young children through volunteering. Subsequently, people are encouraged to become actively involved in their communities and build their skills for their own personal development or for potential employment purposes. Moreover, Home-Start could

contribute to removing isolation for people who are not participating in accessing services, as volunteers could encourage others to become involved in local activities by helping to build confidence and self-esteem.

It is anticipated that the findings of this research will contribute to building a case for a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde.

The next stage in the pursuit of the development of a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde is an open event that will be held on 27th May 2009 in 7 ½ John Wood St, Port Glasgow. This information event will provide the opportunity for people to speak with the Regional Development Officer for Home-Start Scotland to obtain more information about pursuing a local scheme for Inverclyde.

It is anticipated that a steering group may be formed to strategise moves towards achieving the development of a Home-Start scheme in Inverclyde. This action would not only provide more support for families in Inverclyde, but also reduce the strain on family support services that are already in existence.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

This research is being carried out to establish if there is a need for a Home-Start Scheme in Inverclyde.

Home-Start is a family support service that provides tailored, personalised support to families with children under five years old, in their own homes and in groups. Volunteers are recruited and trained to offer support and friendship to other parents/carers through home visiting, specialist groups and social events.

This research aims to gather evidence to support the potential development of a Home-Start Scheme in Inverclyde.

I would be obliged if you would give some of your time to answer the following questions.

1. In your opinion, is there a need for a Home-Start Service in Inverclyde?

Yes No

2. Would you use this type of service?

Yes No

3. How many children under 5 years old are in your family?

4. Have you used any family support services before?

Yes No

5. Do you feel that there is enough family support available in Inverclyde?

Yes No

Please comment.....
.....
.....

6. Would you consider coming along to a discussion group to hear more about the Home-Start project?

Yes No

7. Would you consider becoming a member of a steering group to pursue the development of a Home-Start Scheme in Inverclyde?

Yes No

Please provide your contact details if you would be interested in any of the above:

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel. No......

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire

Any information provided will be protected under the Data Protection Act 1998

QUESTIONNAIRE

This research is being carried out to establish if there is a need for a Home-Start Scheme in Inverclyde.

Home-Start is a family support service that provides tailored, personalised support to families with children under five years old, in their own homes and in groups. Volunteers are recruited and trained to offer support and friendship to other parents/carers through home visiting, specialist groups and social events.

This research aims to gather evidence to support the potential development of a Home-Start Scheme in Inverclyde.

I would be obliged if you would give some of your time to answer the following questions.

4. To your knowledge, are there any family support services being delivered to young families with children under 5 years old in Inverclyde?

Yes No

If yes, please state the services that are being delivered.....

.....

5. In your opinion, is there a need for a Home-Start Service in Inverclyde?

Yes No

6. Do you believe that this type of service may be considered under the priority aims of Government? (i.e. tackling poverty and addressing inequalities)

Yes No

7. Would you consider offering your support in formulating a steering group to pursue the development of a Home-Start Scheme in Inverclyde or contribute resources or provide other contacts or statistical information?

Yes No

Details.....
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.....
.....

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire