

Project note

Together 4 All Service Design

Background

The Social Research Unit supported a series of investments by *The Atlantic Philanthropies* to boost prevention and early intervention activity on the island of Ireland. One of the four 'community engagement' sites supported by Atlantic centred on four neighbourhoods, two protestant and two catholic, in Lurgan Northern Ireland. The Unit's Common Language methods were used to collect data on the well-being of children and to bring together community stakeholders to establish a common purpose for children.

The result was a new charitable organisation called *Together 4 All* that sought to improve mutual respect and understanding, behaviour and emotional health of children aged seven to 11 years. The charity sought to achieve these ends through social and emotional regulation programmes in schools, better screening and intervention of children with impaired development and better support for cross community activities.

Together 4 All have used the Social Research Unit's Common Language methods to support the design, implementation and evaluation of these interventions.

Aim

The Common Language fully involve stakeholders from several agencies in the design, implementation and preparation for evaluation for the different strands of *Together 4 All's* work. In the case of the of the social and emotional regulation curriculum, largely based on the proven model PATHS, the preparation work involved school principals and teachers. In the case of the screening and intervention programme, which draws heavily on Tom Dishion's *Family Check-up*, a service design team of health and special education specialists has been formed.

The aim is to ensure the programmes are implemented with fidelity, and, if experimental evaluation supports the case, can be replicated in other parts of Northern Ireland.

The Social Research Unit has also continued to provide strategic support to *Together 4 All* as it negotiates with funders, central government and establishes itself as an independent charity. In addition the Unit has helped find independent evaluators for the work and support an expert advisory board to oversee the work.

Method

The Common Language service design methods support the responsible adaptation of proven models for different cultural contexts. Two service design team of local stakeholders have been formed, and a 'Principals Forum' of headteachers established.. Epidemiological data have been used to estimate need and demand for the innovations. Programme adaptations have been agreed with the programme originators. RCT evaluation protocols, have been agreed. There is a period of consumer testing, and evaluation of the success of implementation.

Funder

Together 4 All

Timescale
2007-2009

Dissemination

The results of this work are manifest as manuals, training materials and coaching procedures to owned by *Together 4 All*. These are disseminated in the first instance to practitioners implementing the programme, and depending on the results of evaluation to a wider audience.

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