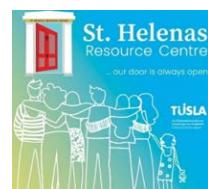




Evaluating the implementation and impact of integrated services in Finglas

2025

The Finglas interagency model is a community-driven initiative which aims to respond to longstanding need in the area and represents a concerted effort to embed early intervention and prevention services in a highly structured, interagency framework. A wide range of partners are involved in this initiative, including statutory agencies, community-based organisations and community members.





What is the background to this work?

Prevention and early intervention are a cornerstone of public policies aiming to tackle inequality. Increasingly, key government policies such as Young Ireland, First 5, as well the Child Poverty and Wellbeing Programme Plan, stress the importance of integrated services for ensuring best outcomes for children and families. To date, however, insufficient service integration continues to undermine the experience of children and families (Child Poverty and Wellbeing Office, 2023). To inform best practice in the area of service integration there is a significant need for research that can help:

- Profile integrated services and how they work in order to develop transferable lessons for service planning and implementation
- Strengthen understanding of the impact of integrated services in enhancing outcomes for children and families, including improving access to and experience of engagement with services and supports.

Currently, Barnardos is involved in the provision of range of services and supports within the Finglas Community in North Dublin. Across the locality, Barnardos is lead agency on two community-based, universal prevention and early intervention initiatives, including the Finglas West Family Resource Centre and Better Finglas. This work includes delivery of evidence-based programmes on an intergenerational basis from pregnancy through the transition to parenthood, early years, and adulthood. The aims are to promote optimal child and family outcomes, foster community empowerment and capacity development and to break the cycle of disadvantage and deprivation. Throughout the community, Barnardos also works to foster integrated thinking and to build capacity and enhance quality of services through effective interagency collaboration.

In 2024, Barnardos received funding through the What Works Building Evidence Fund to evaluate this model of integrated service delivery in the Finglas community.

The aims of this evaluation were to:

- Describe the development, implementation and delivery of integrated services in the area
- Assess how integration is promoted and supported
- Explore the impact of service integration on service delivery, as well as on family engagement and experiences of service use





How was this evaluation conducted?

Working with local stakeholders, Barnardos commissioned Nexus Research Cooperative to conduct an independent process evaluation of interagency work currently underway in Finglas. This evaluation focused on the work of ABC Better Finglas, the Finglas West Family Resource Centre and an interconnected network of local stakeholders involved in the delivery of prevention and early intervention supports.

The evaluation was grounded in a participatory ethos and a group of community-based stakeholders from Barnardos, ABC Better Finglas, the Finglas West Family Resource Centre, St Helena's Resource Centre, local schools, Tusla and Dublin City Council, provided guidance and advice on the research.

The evaluation involved:

- A comprehensive documentary analysis and mapping process to profile the local community, service engagement and organisational collaboration and integration;
- A series of consultation exercises and focus group discussions involving over 60 stakeholders engaged collaboratively in prevention and early intervention supports across Finglas;
- Consultation with the steering groups of Better Finglas and Finglas West Family Resource Centre;
- A survey of 21 professionals;
- A series of focus group discussions with 23 parents engaged in Better Finglas and Finglas West Family Resource Centre programme of supports.



Better Finglas

Better Finglas has a vision of a community where all services – voluntary, statutory, and community – are working together with families to improve the developmental, health and educational outcomes of young children living in the area. This work involves the delivery of a unified suite of evidence-based programmes and quality services for children and their parents from pregnancy up to 8 years.

There are several core strands to the work of Better Finglas including:

- Supporting new parents through pregnancy and the early years of their child's life;
- Supporting positive parenting and enhancing parents' access to information and support on parenting and child development;
- Increasing literacy supports for primary school children;
- Strengthening child and family social and emotional wellbeing; and
- Supporting early years professionals in delivering quality services.

Interagency working is an embedded, cross-cutting theme of the work – this reflects a commitment to providing unified, interagency supports in the area, increasing coordination and collaboration, enhancing identification of gaps in service provisions and referral pathways, as well as information and learning sharing within local and national contexts.

Better Finglas operates through a collaborative steering committee. Barnardos acts as lead agency, overseeing the day-to-day implementation and administration of the project and working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders and individuals from the local community to oversee the development, implementation and review of the project.

The Finglas West Family Resource Centre

The primary goal of the Finglas West Family Resource Centre (FRC) is to combat disadvantage and to strengthen and empower children, families and communities. Finglas West FRC is one of over a hundred FRCs in Ireland.

The FRC offers a diverse range of services that cater to the needs of children, parents and the broader community, including the delivery of evidence informed parent and child groups, and community-wellbeing supports and projects. It also aims to promote and foster community participation and empowerment at planning and objective setting level – and to create, in partnership with the community, a space for community connections and wellbeing. The FRC also highlights its ambition to work effectively with interagency partners to enhance service provision in Finglas West. Against this backdrop, partnership activities prioritised by the FRC include:

- Providing a base for the provision of other services aligned to the FRC objectives and values.
- Working with other organisations to host local community events.
- Maintaining and growing relationships with community members and professionals and developing links with service providers.

The Finglas West FRC is led by a steering committee, with Barnardos acting as a lead agent working in partnership with both local service providers and community members – The steering committee lead on decision making in relation to service development and delivery ensuring an interagency approach and, in turn, responsiveness to the needs of the Finglas West community. The day-to-day running of the FRC, such as human resource, financial and utilities management, are the responsibility of Barnardos.



How did interagency working develop in Finglas?

The first stage of the research focused on profiling the landscape for interagency prevention and early initiatives and the local context.

Prevention and early intervention support has developed dramatically in Ireland over the past 20 years. During the early stages of this development, an emerging interagency network began evolving in Finglas and working relationships were established to address community needs. Personnel from Barnardos' Family Support Service in the area played an important role in catalysing interagency working and developing a consortium of community-based professionals drawn from bodies such as Dublin City Council, the HSE, local schools, early years providers, youth services, the local Partnership company, the Drugs and Alcohol Task Force and voluntary organisations. This provided a foundation for a successful application for funding to develop a prevention and early intervention programme as part of the government-funded ABC programme.



Better Finglas was established in 2013.

The evolution of Better Finglas and its success in delivering its programme of coordinated work laid the foundation for the later establishment of Finglas West FRC in 2018. Stakeholders noted that the Finglas West community had long been under-resourced and under-served. Service-providers had an acute awareness of the high levels of vulnerability in the area, and community residents acknowledged the isolation they felt as a result of inadequate services and resources across the life course.

In 2017, a new round of applications for inclusion in the National FRC Programme was announced by Tusla. The Better Finglas steering group requested that Barnardos coordinate an application on behalf of Finglas West, seeking to establish and implement an FRC in the area. As with Better Finglas, the impetus for the Finglas West FRC emerged via locally-based interagency working relationships in the community. An extensive planning and consultation process involving a wide range of local community organisations was conducted to support this application.

The Finglas West FRC was established in 2018.



Why is a comprehensive, integrated programme of prevention and early intervention important in Finglas?

Profiling the Finglas areas demonstrates that the community is characterised by significant socioeconomic deprivation:



23% of households rely on Social Housing supports



19% left formal education early

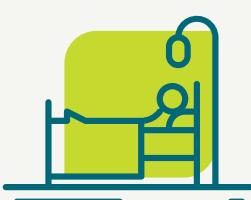
5% are long-term unemployed



7% are unable to work due to long-term sickness or disability



18% of residents describing their health status as fair, bad or very bad



Children, families and community:



Children and young people **aged 0–19 years** represent a **quarter (25%)** of Finglas' population, (CSO, 2022).



21% of all households in the community are headed by a lone parent



Three-quarters of the population are white Irish, however, the Travelling community is more represented here than in the wider national population and small percentages of Black/Black Irish and Asian/Asian Irish are also recorded in the community, **emphasising the importance of inclusivity** in services and education.

These data paint a picture of a community facing significant challenges, including high levels of deprivation, housing insecurity, educational disadvantage, unemployment, and health issues. This indicates a clear and unambiguous need for comprehensive supports and interventions to address these vulnerabilities. Additionally, the area's diversity suggests that inclusivity should be a key consideration in policy and community development.

What is the ‘Steering Committee’ Interagency Model?

Both Better Finglas and the Finglas West FRC are governed by a Steering Committee with Barnardos taking the role of lead agency.

The steering committees bring together core partners including members from statutory agencies (such as Tusla, Department of Education, city council, etc.), non-statutory agencies (such as youth services, homeless service, etc.) and members of the community. The key function of the steering committees is to monitor operation and implementation and to facilitate cross organisational communication and an integrated approach to service development and delivery. These partners meet regularly to set strategic priorities, allocate resources, and monitor progress toward the goals of social, economic, and cultural regeneration in Finglas and are ultimately the driving forces behind the promotion, support and implementation of collaborative programmes and activities in Finglas.

Barnardos acts as host organisation with responsibility for the operation and management of both programmes of work and for the direct work with children, young people and their families. The implementation team includes specialised professionals who each oversee the individual strands of prevention and early intervention work in the area.

Crucially, all stakeholders involved in Better Finglas and Finglas West FRC recognise these initiatives as community-based collaborations involving an interagency approach. While Barnardos serves as the administrative lead, it is an equal partner in these efforts, working alongside community leaders and local bodies to support the development and progression of both programmes. This ensures that the initiatives remain rooted in community ownership while benefiting from the expertise and structural support that Barnardos provides.



How is interagency work being put into action in the Finglas area?

Interagency working refers to the process of working across organisational boundaries to achieve common goals and outcomes. It can take different forms and levels, ranging from information sharing and consultation to joint planning and decision making. This coordinated and collaborative approach integrates resources, expertise, and efforts from different sectors such as government agencies, non-profit organisations, businesses, and community groups.

- The Finglas interagency model unites a diverse range of stakeholders from across the community including community leaders and a diverse range of statutory community and voluntary organisations to address community needs proactively, collaboratively and holistically.
- By integrating services and fostering strong relationships, agencies and organisations set out to deliver more effective prevention and early intervention services, optimise resources, and build a stronger, more resilient community.
- The success of the model relies on clear communication and a shared commitment to improving outcomes for children, young people, and families.

The evaluation highlights several case examples of interagency working that are having an impact on the Finglas Community – these initiatives have radiated out from the central collaborative ‘core’ that is the Better Finglas and Finglas West FRC steering committees and illustrate how cross-organisational working is being catalysed in the community.



Case study 1: The Finglas Parenting Forum

The Finglas Parenting Forum is a collaborative initiative within the Finglas community that supports the delivery of evidence-based parenting programmes. The forum brings together stakeholders from across the community including community organisations, schools and statutory agencies.

The forum engages in the following activities:

- Engaging in regular meetings and collaboration to exchange information.
- Conducting needs assessments and subsequently designing parenting courses, workshops, and support groups to address these needs.
- Planning and resource sharing to support the delivery of initiatives that support parents and families.
- Raising awareness to promote available services and resources to ensure parents are aware of those services and are able to access them.

Overall, through the work of the parenting forum, members pool resources, connections and expertise to ensure that parents have access to the services and support they need. By working together in this fashion, the network has positive outcomes for the community including:

- Enhanced data sharing and collaborative planning.
- Better identification of needs and service/intervention pathways.
- Enhanced awareness and increased access to supports for parents.
- Reduction in duplication of effort.
- Maximising efficiency of available resources.



Case study 2: Central Administration Hub and Shared Calendar

A central administration hub and shared calendar has been established between Better Finglas and St. Helena's Resource Centre – this serves as an operational and logistical centre for coordinating activities, resources, and communication between the two organisations

The Hub and Shared Calendar involves the following:

- Aligning and coordinating resources to facilitate access for parents – for example, there is one central point of registration for parents and allows them to access parenting resources in a joined up, seamless manner.
- Scheduling and delivering parenting programmes in a manner that supports optimal accessibility for families.
- Managing shared resources, such as funding, staff, and facilities, to avoid duplication and ensure efficient use of available assets.
- Developing a central repository for data collected by both organisations, enabling joint analysis and reporting on numbers as and when required for funders or for funding applications.
- Creating a Shared Calendar tool to coordinate activities, events, and programmes. It ensures that both organisations are aware of each other's schedules, reducing conflicts and maximising participation from the community. The shared calendar helps in allocating shared resources, such as venues, equipment, and staff, ensuring that they are used efficiently. The shared calendar is accessible to community members, providing them with a clear overview of available programmes and events.

The Central Administration Hub and Shared Calendar are essential tools for fostering collaboration between Better Finglas and St. Helena's. By centralising administration, coordinating schedules, and sharing resources, these tools enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of both organisations, ultimately benefiting the community. However, successful implementation requires careful planning, strong communication, and ongoing commitment to address potential challenges. This initiative has positive outcomes for the community including:

- Improved use of resources.
- Enhanced access and uptake amongst families.

St. Helena's Resource Centre is part of Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support Services and provides a range of adult education activities, group activities for children, programmes for the older population, specialised programmes and meeting space for the local community groups of Finglas.

Case study 3: The Finglas Additional Needs Working Group

One of the most significant interagency achievements has been the Finglas Additional Needs Working Group. Established under Better Finglas in 2023, this group was formed in response to the frustration and challenges faced by parents in the community in navigating an often-confusing system of assessments, diagnoses and lengthy waiting lists. The working group comprises of representatives from Barnardos, Better Finglas, Finglas West FRC, St Helena's Resource Centre, Finglas Tusla Child and Family Support Network, HSE and other local services working with families.

The working group engages in the following activities:

- Identification and information sharing with regard to the needs of families of children with additional needs.
- Designing and planning collective responses to needs.
- Hosting community events such as parental engagement sessions through to seasonal events.
- Creating an innovative programme of activities which brings together relevant professionals such as Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists or advocates working in this sector to provide workshops to parents on themes of particular importance. Workshops are frequently oversubscribed, with parental demand extending beyond the Finglas catchment, a phenomenon informed mainly by word of mouth.

Benefits of this work include:

- The development of a coordinated and holistic programme of support to better respond to the needs of parents and children.
- Strengthening engagement and capacity amongst parents - By providing families with resources and support, the working group contributes to parental and family capacity to advocate for their children and navigate complex systems, as individual families, but also as peer groups.
- The Working Group also acts as an advocacy platform for policy changes and increased funding to enhance support for children with additional needs at a systemic level.
- The Additional Needs Working Group also provides local professionals with the opportunities to enhance their own and each other's practice, exploring creative, collective responses to a community need. It is this focus on mutual enhancement, in a context of significant service-challenges and deficits, that categorises this interagency collaboration in Finglas as a comprehensive form of collective support to meet the needs of families and practitioners.

Case study 4: Post Natal Support Group

The Post Natal Support Group was created in 2017 to address gaps in postnatal care for vulnerable mothers and infants in Finglas. Better Finglas partnered with St Helena's Resource Centre, the Rotunda Hospital and the HSE to integrate clinical expertise with localised, community-driven support and improve health outcomes for mothers and newborns. Community midwives work closely with Better Finglas and St Helena's, based on a longstanding Memorandum of Understanding with the HSE. Specialised facilitators provide a bespoke programme of support, allowing for a wraparound of other community-based services, as required by the participants.

Key interagency activities include:

- Co-designed care pathways where midwives and community health workers jointly developed postnatal care plans tailored to local community members.
- Home visits in collaboration with community nurses to identify risks and connect families to local resources.
- Peer support networks are facilitated by community workers to reduce isolation and share parenting strategies.
- Access to workshops and sessions on nutrition, mental health, and infant development, baby massage, as well as links to Preparing for Life mentors and specialised facilitators

Benefits of this work include:

- Improved health outcomes for new mothers and babies (e.g. reduced readmissions).
- Improved access to mental health services and parenting supports.
- Strengthened trust between healthcare providers and the community.



What are the types of interagency work happening across the community?

Interagency working in Better Finglas and Finglas West FRC operates under multi-agency/partner steering groups, which provide strategic direction and serve as the engines for interagency collaboration. These structures consist of core partners responsible for day-to-day decision making and programme implementation, and an ‘outer circle’ of broader supporting actors, agencies and stakeholders who provide strategic oversight, advocacy and additional resources. This layered approach to interagency collaboration ensures that local expertise is harnessed while maintaining a sustainable, structured governance model. By structuring partnerships in this way, the model fosters a dynamic and inclusive approach to service provision, ensuring that key agencies work closely while maintaining broader community involvement. The types of interagency working that are evident include:



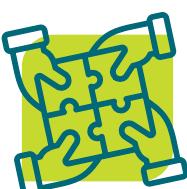
Networking and Information Sharing

- A range of groups which have been established through Better Finglas and Finglas West FRC facilitate communication, networking and information exchange across various sectors.
- This helps services to maintain awareness of each other’s roles, establishes regular information-sharing forums, fosters interagency awareness, and creates a foundation for more advanced collaboration.



Coordination and Formal Collaboration

- A range of joint initiatives and working groups have been established – this involves planned and formal collaboration, including data sharing and activity alteration to achieve better alignment.
- Formal agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been put in place to support these efforts – this helps to ensure coordination of activities and shared resources.
- Regular interagency meetings are also held to ensure that efforts remain aligned, promoting more efficient and targeted service delivery.



Integrated and Comprehensive Collaboration

- Integrated and comprehensive working through the Finglas West FRC and Better Finglas steering groups, as well as other initiatives is underway.
- This is the highest level of interagency collaboration and involves coordinated and integrated planning, evidence of mutual enhancement and capacity building, and long-term sustainability of collaborative efforts.
- This is supported through formal agreements – such as MoUs, regular meetings, contractual arrangements and policy alignment.



What are the benefits of interagency working?

Analysis of case studies, consultations, surveys, service user engagement mapping and focus groups with key stakeholders helped to identify a range of benefits of integrated working. These included positive impacts and outcomes for organisational, practitioners, service users and communities.

Organisational benefits

Collaboration between local agencies was understood as improving information exchange, increased cohesion in service planning and strengthened referral pathways.



91% of respondents reported positive changes in information sharing



82% observed greater cohesion in service planning



86% noted improvements in referral pathways

This indicates that organisations were increasingly working together, sharing learning, supporting each other to find solutions to needs and challenges and ensure that parents received needs-led and outcomes focused supports.



Collaborative processes were also perceived as leading to improved efficiency. Resources, such as funding, staff and facilities are being shared – this helps to avoid duplication of effort and ensure efficient use of available assets. Increased mutual engagement in needs analysis, service planning and delivery has also led to capacity development and increased use of evidence-based ways of working across the community.

“ Knowledge sharing has led to better signposting to other services and knowing who to ask.”

– (Community Garda)

“ It’s also very important for signposting others and learning about what is available in the community.”

– (Early Years Mentor)

“ [Networks] are a great way of finding out about services, signposting parents to others, face to face relationship building, sharing information, planning courses, identifying needs.”

– (HSCL Officer)



Practitioner benefits

Individual practitioners felt that interagency working had enhanced and resulted in efficiencies in their own service delivery - 100% of individual service providers agreed or strongly agreed that

- New practices and new ideas come out of interagency working
- My working life has benefited from my involvement in these structures

“ Allows me to access a wider network which can help me provide better supports, i.e. access resources, funding knowledge.”

— (Parenting Support Worker)

“ Interagency collaboration has made services more accessible by providing streamlined referral pathways between organisations.”

— (HSE representative)

Service user benefits

- Mapping service user engagement reveals community members strong engagement in services and supports, suggesting interagency working has played a significant role in promoting service uptake
- Increased parent awareness of supports and enhanced trust in services was also identified as a positive outcome of interagency working and leading to greater participation amongst community members in evidence-based programmes.
- Parents who participated in the research reported that services and supports feel easier to navigate because of the interconnected approach. This in turn, resulted in improved access for community members.
- Parents also reported increased perceptions of support and of feeling empowered to attend services within community settings and achieve their own parenting goals.

“ Service users are requesting programmes now instead of being referred only.”

— (Better Finglas)





Community benefits

Case studies of interagency working in Finglas demonstrate how collaborative and integrated working was seen as helping to address interconnected needs and systemic inequalities. Shared planning processes and the coordinated delivery of proactive services and supports are evident and helping to promote enhanced, evidence-based prevention and early intervention service delivery. Collaborative, integrated practices were also identified as important in ensuring community trust and engagement in services. Over the longer run, when parents are facilitated to access high quality services and engage with a network of peers and professionals, it can foster empowerment and better outcomes for the community.

“ Families appear to appreciate the shared knowledge of services rather than duplication and repetition.”

— (Community Garda)



“ Joint outreach efforts with delivery partners and HSE waiting list clients have increased community participation in health programmes, as our combined resources allow for broader reach and better promotion of services. This collaboration has led to higher attendance at health workshops and community events.”

— (HSE representative)

“ Interagency working helps our organisation to listen to and meet the needs of the community voice.”

— (HSE Representative)

“ We come up with better quality initiatives, we are better informed of needs of community and understanding what other organisations are doing.”

— (Programme Co-ordinator)

What is needed for interagency work to be enabled and embedded?

Key factors that enabled or supported effective prevention and early intervention collaboration were:

Developing a supportive organisational culture was the most frequently cited enabler of interagency working. Interagency collaboration was recognised as a priority within respective organisations. Managerial buy-in was an important factor in fostering and embedding a culture of integrated practice. This type of top-down support, flexibility and encouragement helped to facilitate attendance at meetings and allowed for resources to be explicitly allocated for interagency engagement.

Administrative support provided by lead agencies and coordinating bodies was highlighted as important. For instance, interagency coordination meetings were perceived as assisting in building effective working relationships across partners. Facilitative administration for interagency coordination meetings, including the provision of up-to-date information, agendas in advance, as well as ongoing support and communication from partner agencies, was seen as a vital ingredient in ensuring the success of such work.

Availability of resources was also identified as an important facilitator of interagency working. This included practical resources (such as building availability to host meetings) financial resources (funding for events), as well as human resources (staff availability to facilitate collaborative working efforts between organisations). As coordinating bodies, Barnardos and Tusla were viewed as effective in managing interagency work. Notably, the approach adopted by coordinating agencies was a crucial factor and flexibility, responsiveness and listening to community needs were highlighted as important in fostering interagency working.



What are the challenges and barriers?

Although significant successes were described, gaps and barriers were also noted:

Effective interagency working was seen as requiring significant investment of time and this emerged as a potential challenge. The time and effort of busy practitioners should be optimised, so it is important that meetings associated with interagency working are run efficiently and effectively to enhance and enable participation in interagency work.

Other barriers included competing organisational priorities, opposing policies and processes (such as data protection requirements), and limited resources (inadequate funding, staff turnover).

Ongoing work to engage community representatives, particularly the most marginalised members of the community was also highlighted as an area for further development.



What are the lessons for interagency and integrated working?

This research demonstrated that an interagency working model within prevention and early intervention is underpinned by a range of core principles and highlights partner agencies/ organisations' commitment to:

- Addressing interconnected needs and systemic inequalities
- Maximising resources through collaboration
- Integrated and accessible service delivery
- Building community participation, trust and engagement
- Data sharing and evidence-based practice
- Policy Alignment and Strategic Planning.

Core partners: Effective interagency working requires resources, time, energy and commitment - Coordination between core partners is required to catalyse cross-disciplinary relationship-building and cross-community collaboration. The steering committee model of Better Finglas and the Finglas West FRC and lead agency role of Barnardos provides crucial coordinating and catalysing functions to promote integrated working more broadly throughout the community. A key finding of the evaluation is that, without the collaborative working approach provided by these steering committees, interagency service-provision for children and families would be performed in a more ad hoc and less considered manner.

Leadership: Effective interagency working requires effective leadership - An essential enabler of community-based interagency practice is the role played by a dynamic lead agency. In this context, Barnardos have played a key facilitative role, and have been central to building trust and connection between community stakeholders, as well as establishing appropriate processes to support the development and sustainability of effective interagency practices (e.g. interagency team building, logic modelling, service planning).

Time and progressive development: Effective interagency collaboration requires sustained effort - time is required to build relationships and to steadily progress from initial levels of networking and information sharing within and across agencies to levels of coordination and formal collaboration.

Success begets success: The benefits of interagency working are multiple and can include improved access and engagement, as well as better outcomes for service users and increased service efficiencies. When success is felt at an individual and organisational level, this generates more commitment to collaboration and in turn, builds the momentum for further engagement and further collaboration - helping to ensure sustainability of interagency working

Measurement: Capturing the impact of interagency and integrated working is challenging. Developing and implementing a Common Measurement Framework (CMF) may be a useful tool to monitor progress, assess performance, and evaluate outcomes consistently across all agencies. Systematic tracking of what is working, for whom, and under what conditions can help to support continuous improvement, evidence-based decision-making and further relationship building.

Continual out-reach is needed: This evaluation highlighted the challenge of reaching and engaging the most excluded and marginalised community groups. There is ongoing need for all collaborative initiatives to consider how interagency working can reach further into more marginalised groups and communities.



Conclusion

The Finglas interagency model is a leading example of collaborative and integrated practice. This progressively integrated approach is helping to ensure responsive and equitable evidence-based prevention and early intervention supports are available to improve outcomes for children and families. To sustain and amplify its impact, ongoing investment, strong local leadership, and alignment with national frameworks are essential. By embedding structures for governance, evaluation, coordination, and community engagement, Finglas can continue to provide integrated, responsive, and equitable evidence-based support for children and families—while serving as a model for broader systemic change.



NEXUS

This evaluation was conducted by
Nexus Research Cooperative.

A full evaluation report is available. Contact research@barnardos.ie

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the work and expertise of Neil Haran, Paul Butler and Tara Scott (Nexus Research Cooperative) in conducting this evaluation. We owe a significant debt of gratitude to the parents, service providers and community members who kindly agreed to take part in this evaluation. We would like to sincerely thank Larry Dooley, Rhian McEvoy, Audrey Cruise, Stephen Nolan, Helena Reilly, Laura Gallagher, Siobhan Lyons, Clodagh Carroll, Siobhan Greene, James Parkin, Beverley McMackin and Lynn Bradley for their time in supporting this research.

This evaluation would not have been possible without the funding of the What Works Unit in the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.







Because childhood lasts a lifetime

Barnardos,
Christchurch Square,
Dublin 8.

Tel: +35314530355
Email: info@barnardos.ie
www.barnardos.ie



An Roinn Leanáil, Míchumais
agus Comhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality

