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Better Start Bradford Innovation Hub- Social and Emotional Development Workstream

About the Social and Emotional Development workstream

The social and emotional development workstream in Better Start Bradford (BSB) evaluates those projects whose primary aim is to improve children's social and emotional development.

Achieving appropriate social and emotional development in the early years is vital for both children's sense of well-being and their future development as happy confident adults. In order for children to develop well socially and emotionally good relationships with their parents and carers are key, as is consistent, engaged care. For many parents developing a positive relationship with their child and providing appropriate parenting can be difficult for a variety of reasons. For example this could be because they have not parented before, or the parent has their own emotional health problems; is socially isolated; they have not had a positive upbringing themselves; or because of other stressors in their life.

Social and emotional development is one of the main outcome domains of the Better Start initiative and 12 Better Start interventions are being evaluated by the social and emotional development workstream in Bradford. As BSB are initially focussing on children aged 0-3 years most interventions aim to improve children's social and emotional development by working with parents who may need/want additional support to provide an environment in which their child can achieve a good level of social and emotional development in the vital early years.

The twelve interventions within the social and emotional development workstream are:

Personalised Midwifery

Baby Buddy

Baby Steps

Welcome to the World

Doula

Babies and Bonding

Northamptonshire Baby Room

Family Nurse Partnership

Home-start

Incredible Years

Family Links Nurturing

These projects are at different stages of development and evaluation methods will reflect this. Projects will be evaluated in terms of their effectiveness and their reach using the BiBBS cohort as well as project specific data.





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People involved

The social and emotional workstream is led by Tracey Bywater, Professor of Family Wellbeing and Abigail Dunn is the workstream's Research Fellow. Both are based in the Department of Health Sciences, University of York.

Prior to coming to the University of York in 2011 Tracey worked in the Psychology Department at Bangor University, Wales, where she was awarded her PhD in Psychology in 2005. She has also worked for The Social Research Unit, Dartington. Currently Tracey is Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Children's Early Intervention Trust, and leads on many projects in the field of family wellbeing, while publishing extensively in this field.

For more information on current research activities see <https://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/our-staff/tracey-bywater/>

Abby undertook a PhD in the department of Social Policy at the University of York looking at the association between family complexity and children's well-being using data from the Millennium Cohort Study. As part of her PhD Abby applied propensity score matching to evaluating the impact of family complexity on children and she hopes to be able to apply propensity score matching to evaluating some of the interventions in Better Start Bradford using BiBBS data.

The social and emotional development workstream is advised by a management committee of experts in various aspects of social and emotional development. The members of the committee include; Professor Karen Bloor, Professor Kath Kiernan, Professor Kate Pickett, Dr Louise Tracey, Dr Sarah Blower (all University of York), Professor Neil Small (BSBIH cross cutting workstream lead for Community Engagement). The committee also acts as the CLAHRC-YH IMPACT parenting project, see <http://clahrc-yh.nihr.ac.uk/our-themes/healthy-children-healthy-families/meet-the-team>

Who to contact for more information

If you would like to know more about the work of the social and emotional development workstream in evaluating Better Start Bradford or have any questions about any of our plans please get in touch with Abby Dunn at Abigail.dunn@york.ac.uk or on 01904 328167

Links to:

<http://www.betterstartbradford.co.uk/>

<http://www.bibbs.co.uk/>

<http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/>

