

# Newsletter

## COMMUNITY

### ANNIVERSARY

It's been a year since ELI took on the lead agency role, and we're looking forward to another year of learning, collaboration and supporting families and children together.



#### ABC Grangegorman are delighted to introduce Stephen Nolan

Stephen has recently taken on the role of Children and Families Support Network (CFSN) Coordinator for the NWIC area.

Stephen steps into the position following the retirement of Fidelma Bonass, who worked tirelessly in the community for many years. Stephen, having worked alongside Fidelma for over six years, acknowledges her incredible legacy and is committed to continuing the collaborative spirit she fostered, joking, 'Nobody says no to Fidelma!'

With a strong background in Social Care, Stephen has been working as a CFSN Coordinator since 2019, covering Finglas for five years and, more recently, Dublin Bay North. Before this, Stephen spent 12 years with The Salvation Army, supporting children in emergency accommodation and aftercare residential services.

Stephen joins the role at a time of reform within Tusla and the Prevention, Partnership & Family Support (PPFS) programme. He is passionate about connecting with professionals, community and voluntary agencies, and local networks to support children, young people, and families across the NWIC area.

Stephen is particularly excited to work with the well-established CYAG network and its sub-groups, and looks forward to building new connections across local services to ensure families have access to the support they need.

First and foremost, Stephen is a parent, bringing both professional experience and personal insight to the role. He is committed to fostering collaboration, strengthening local supports, and continuing the excellent work already underway in the community.

Please join us in welcoming Stephen to the NWIC area and wishing him every success in his new role.



**ABC Grangegorman is delighted to be implementing the Community Families Programme in the area and to introduce its Coordinator, Shauna Beasley (right) and Home Visitor, Ann Marie Byrne (left)**

### **About Community Families**

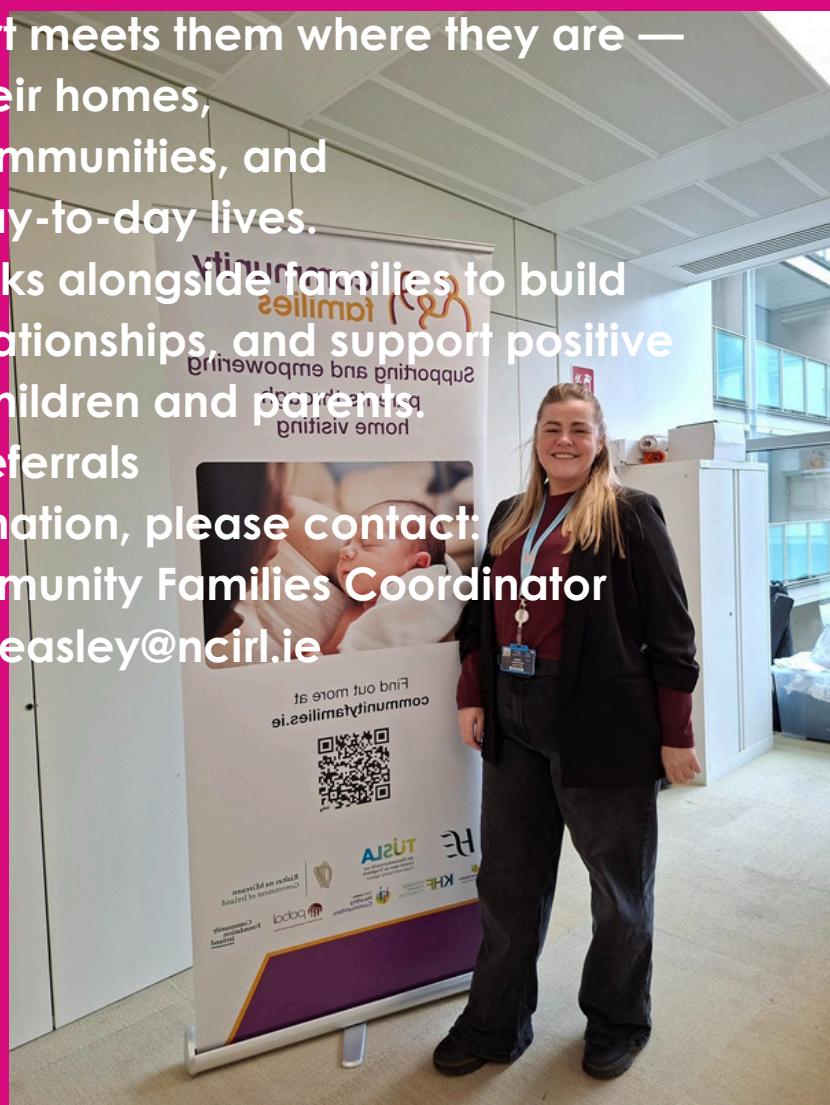
**Community Families was formerly known as the Community Mothers Programme and has recently undergone a national review and update. In 2024, a number of Community Mothers Programmes, along with other similar home visiting programmes, transitioned to Community Families.**

**The programme is grounded in the understanding that families thrive when support meets them where they are — in their homes, in their communities, and in their day-to-day lives.**

**Community Families works alongside families to build confidence, strengthen relationships, and support positive outcomes for children and parents.**

### **Referrals**

**For referral information, please contact:  
Shauna Beasley – Community Families Coordinator  
[Shauna.Beasley@ncirl.ie](mailto:Shauna.Beasley@ncirl.ie)**



# IMH Network Documentary Screening: Resilience



The Infant Mental Health Network for the Dublin 1&7 area met in January to view the documentary Resilience. This screening provided a valuable opportunity for network members to come together, reflect, and deepen discussions on how best to support the families we work with, particularly in relation to building resilience and developing a deeper understanding of their experiences.

The event was held in the Wood Quay venue, where members also enjoyed the opportunity to connect informally over lunch. This gathering marked the conclusion of the Wheel Training Link Fund, which has supported network members to access training across a range of Infant Mental Health areas. This funding has played a key role in addressing gaps in learning, increasing knowledge and awareness, and strengthening relationships across the network.

The session was facilitated by Sharon Byrne, with Michelle Guy and Aoife Hogg from Tusla in attendance and holding the licence to screen the documentary

Going forward Mandy Byrne (One Family ) and Jacqueline Cullen (ABC Grangegorman) will both coordinate the IMH network. We look forward to another successful year ahead for the Infant Mental Health Network, building on strong foundations as the network continues to grow and evolve.





## Early Talk Boost

ABC Grangegorman is delighted to offer Early Talk Boost on pilot basis this year. Early Talk Boost is a 9 week catch-up programme for 3 to 4-year-old children behind with talking and understanding words to boost their language skills and it is delivered in Early Years Services.

At the end of last year Educators in two Early Years Services in our consortium, Tiny Toes Community Creche and St. Marys Early Years Service availed of the Early talk Boost Educator training. We look forward to suitable children benefiting from the implementation of this programme this year.

The children's playground on the TU Dublin campus, part of the Grangegorman site, is closing from today, Monday 19th January, for 6-8 weeks for resurfacing and the installation of a mobility swing for inclusive play. Signs have been put up to let visitors know about the temporary closure timeline and contractors working in the area. All details on the GDA website: <https://ggda.ie>, with information on alternative playgrounds in D7 included in the project factsheet. There is also a separate downloadable Grangegorman site scavenger hunt.

A new parents' group is starting on Friday 23 January, from 10.00am to 12.00pm, in Aosóg, Prussia Street, and will run for six weeks. It's a relaxed and friendly space for parents to meet others, have a chat, and take part in informal activities such as crafts and personal development, in a safe and supportive setting. The group is mainly for parents involved with Aosóg, but if there are spare places, a small number may be offered to local parents. For more information, contact Sweetie on 089 255 3144 or Melanie on 089 252 7888.

## Step-by-Step Play Therapy

offers children a safe and welcoming space to express their feelings through play.

During sessions, children can use toys, art, and other creative activities to communicate in a way that feels natural to them.

**This gentle support helps children build confidence, understand their emotions, and feel more secure as they grow.**

## Speech and Language Therapy Phone Advice

offers parents and guardians a relaxed opportunity to chat one-to-one with a Speech and Language Therapist about their child's speech and language development. Each call lasts around 20 minutes and takes place on planned dates throughout the year (see the accompanying flyer for details). The clinic is open to families living in the Finglas, Cabra, Blakestown and Blanchardstown areas. Please note, this service is for children who are not currently linked in with other supports such as CDNT or CAMHS. All appointments are booked in advance through your local health centre.

**Speech and Language Therapy  
Phone Advice Clinic**

**Advice**

Call to talk  
to a Speech  
and  
Language  
Therapist  
about your  
child.

**Ideas**

**Who?**  
The Phone Advice Clinic is for parents and guardians, living in the **Finglas, Cabra, Blakeshaw and Blanchardstown area** who would like help with their child's speech and language development.

This service is not for children who are already referred to other services e.g. Community Disability Network Team (CDNT) or Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

<b>What?</b>	<b>When?</b>
20 minute phone call with a speech and language therapist	Between 9.30am to 12.30pm 19/1/2026 20/7/2026 16/2/2026 17/8/2026 23/3/2026 21/9/2026 20/4/2026 19/10/2026 18/5/2026 16/11/2026 15/6/2026 14/12/2026

**How?**  
Phone in advance to book an appointment:  
Finglas 01 8567770 Cabra 01 8666838  
Blakeshaw 01 8297203 Blanchardstown 01 7956815

## Parenting 365 (P365) Programme

**Step by Step, Child and Family Project (43 Parnell Street, Dublin 1) is now open for referrals for the Parenting 365 (P365) Programme, supporting parents and families of children with additional learning needs.**

The six-week programme includes facilitated play sessions, online sessions, practical resources, and a weekly parent support group via Zoom, and is expected to begin at the end of February (date to be confirmed).

**Referrals are strictly limited to families within the Grangegorman ABC Catchment – North West Inner City and should be sent directly to [parenting365d7@gmail.com](mailto:parenting365d7@gmail.com).**

# Contact Us:

For more information on programmes and supports available in your area, please contact: [eli@ncirl.ie](mailto:eli@ncirl.ie).

To keep up to date throughout the year, please connect with us:

Website: <https://orangegeermanabc.com>

Instagram: grangegormanabc.