

Child Care and Protection Services

INTRODUCTION

The Board provides a range of child care services that are aimed at supporting children and their families. The services range from family support to the investigation of allegations of child abuse and neglect, and to the provision of alternate care either foster or residential care.

The Board aims at providing a regional approach in the provision of child care services and this strategy will reflect the national emphasis on standardised service provision.

In this regard specific initiatives in relation to :

- The investigation and management of allegations of child abuse
- Provision of a standardised framework for inter country adoption assessments
- Compliance with the standards of the Social Service Inspectorate for residential
child care.

will be undertaken.

Review Of Performances Against 1999 Service Plans

Child Protection

The Board delivered 21 two day Child Protection Training Programmes to a total of 600 participants - 550 Health Board staff and 50 Gardai.

The Board continued to operate a "no-waiting" list policy for initial investigations of allegations of child abuse.

As a quality initiative measure the process of the reviews of all allegations of child abuse and neglect was undertaken in Laois / Offaly Community Care Area and will be continued in 2000 under the continuous quality improvement programme.

The Board continued to provide court requested reports within the twelve-week time-frame agreed with the Courts. This service continued to place pressure on the Board's social work services as the new posts (1.5 w.t.e. social work posts) identified for this service remained unfilled in 1999 due to problems in recruiting staff.

Difficulties still remain in the provision of child sexual abuse assessments in one Community Care Area due to difficulties in recruiting staff.

The recruitment of staff is becoming a significant factor affecting service development as several developmental posts remained unfilled at the end of 1999. This will have implications for the implementation of the 'Children First' Guidelines and the Childrens Bill.

Family Support Services

The Board continued to provide a wide range of family support services. The Athlone Springboard Project is well-established and providing services to families, children and to the wider community.

A second Springboard Project was approved in 1999 for Tullamore and this project and will be operational in 2000.

The Board continued to provide a range of family support and parenting programmes.

The post to provide a primary preventative support programme for young mothers remained unfilled at the end of 1999 due to the recruitment difficulties.

Foster Care, Relative Care, Independent Care and Adoption

The Board appointed two support social workers for foster carers. The social workers, together with foster carers, have completed the Irish Foster Care Association Training Programme and a series of training programmes for all foster carers will be delivered in 2000.

The Care Plan Review Project, undertaken as a quality initiative, was completed in 1999 and will be progressed in a project management format as a continuous quality improvement in 2000.

The Board approved ten new foster carers in 1999. With natural wastage, this just about kept pace with the pre-existing numbers. In addition four families were approved under the Independent Carers' Programme and have received training. This project initiated in Laois/Offaly will be extended to Longford/Westmeath in 2000.

Adoption

The Board welcomed the study on "Towards a Standardised Framework on Inter-Country Adoption" launched by the Department of Health & Children in 1999 and has

initiated measures for its implementation. The Board received additional funding of £0.011m in 1999 to address the waiting list for inter-country adoption assessments. The additional funding permitted a half time social work post in fostering and adoption to be increased to a whole time post. This additional post significantly assisted in reducing the waiting list for both first and second assessments in inter-country adoption which stood at 31 in July 1999 and reduced to 8 by September 1999. The Board also operated a system of fast-tracking second applications.

The waiting list and the waiting time for assessment has been reduced and all assessments are now commencing within 12 months of the date of application.

Residential Care

A review of the Board's Residential Services was undertaken in 1999 and the recommendations of this review will be progressed in 2000. The main findings of the review indicates that three of the Board's existing units are no longer appropriate for the purpose for which they are now being used. It is recommended that these units should close and the services they provide be relocated in more suitable accommodation. The historic imbalance of all the Board's residential child care units being located in one community care area (Longford/Westmeath) will be redressed in the relocation of the units.

During 1999 the management structure in the Board's residential service was reviewed. The management of the residential childcare services was inherited from a time when the service was provided by religious sisters. The "resident manager" was resident and the structure did not reflect current best practice standards. A new management structure is in the process of being put into place. The service will have a manager, a deputy manager and each of the units will have a unit leader.

Interviews for the post of Manager of the Residential Child Care Services were completed and an appointment is being processed.

The post of Deputy Manager of the Residential Child Care Services was advertised and interviews will take place early in the New Year.

The posts of Unit Leaders are at an advanced stage and they will be filled as a matter of priority in 2000.

All staff received training in T.C.I (Therapeutic Crisis Intervention).

The Board continued to review the care plans of each individual child in residential at least twice annually.

Pre school Services

The Board has been notified of a total of 190 pre school services operating in the Board's area. This figure represents an increase of 45% on the 1998 figures. In addition the pre school inspection teams provide advisory visits to proposed and exiting services intending to extend or alter their operations, participate in training for Service Providers and deal with complaints and queries. Of the pre schools services

inspected (146) approximately 40% of the services are overcrowded by 1-10 places. The main concerns arising from inspections of sessional services (those 3.5 hours or less) are:

- Over crowding
- Absence of a second adult most notably in those catering for 5-10 children
- Variations in qualifications/training of personnel operating pre-school services
- Need for structural improvements in order to comply with the Regulations

The main concerns arising from inspections of full day care units are:

- Over crowding
- Need for structural improvements to comply with the Regulations
- Food provision not incorporating the main four food groups
- Inadequate storage of prepared infant formula
- Lack of structured programmes
- Quality of childcare provision compromised by the influx of after school children
- Poor outdoor play area
- Insufficient insurance cover for services taking additional children on a drop-in basis

Initial inspection visits are pre- arranged, subsequent visits are unannounced and where there are concerns visits are on-going to redress the problems.

Additional funding to the pre-school services in 2000 and will allow for the expansion of the team to deal with an anticipated increase in pre-school service provision.

Child Care Services

Additional funding for 2000 amounts to £1.448 million.

	£m
Residential Services	0.040
Foster Care	0.213
Pre-School Services	0.161
Pre-School Pilot Projects	0.040
Pre-School Inspections/Advisory Service	0.122
Counselling for Victims of Past Abuse	0.190
Inter-Country Adoptions	0.017
Children Bill	0.270

Child Protection Services	0.150
Child Abuse Guidelines Training	0.045
Video Recording	0.100
Family Support	0.050
Homelessness Initiative	0.050
Total	1.448

The Department of Health and Children has advised each health board that provision needs to be made for co-funding on a collaborative basis across boards to ensure a co-ordination and an integrated approach to the implementation of 'Children First' National Child Protection and Welfare Guidelines. The appointment of resource persons to the Health Boards Executive and also for the provision of materials (videos, etc) in relation to 'Children First' are examples of what is proposed. The cost to the Midland Health Board to be taken from developmental monies in 2000 is £0.023m. There will be an on going commitment for the Board in both 2001 and 2002.

Training

The Board has developed and provided a wide range of in-service training programmes and in 1999 provided a total of 98 training days to 2049 staff. Training in 2000 will concentrate on the Children First National Guidelines for Child Protection and Welfare. Additional funding of £0.040 m has been provided to this end.

Emerging Issues identified during 1999

Several of the Board's developmental posts remained unfilled at the end of 1999. The Board is experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff in psychology, social work, residential child care and community based child care. This will impact on the Board's ability to meet its current statutory duties.

The implementation of "Children First" and the anticipated statutory obligations to be placed on the Board with the enactment of the Children Bill in light of the situation regarding staff shortages will further exacerbate the staff recruitment and retention problem.

The Children Bill will allow the courts to impose supervision orders on parents. This will impact on adult services such as the addiction services.

The absence of specific services for clients with a mental disability and who remain in foster care after their 18th birthday will be addressed in 2000.

The Board continues to be notified by the Prison Service and the Probation and Welfare Service of convicted child sexual offenders returning to the community and their potential risk to the family they have returned to, or to a new family to whom they now reside. The Board has received 17 such referrals in one community care area.

The number of such cases of potential risk increases when adult victims of past abuse report concerns for the current welfare and protection of children to whom their alleged abuser has access. The number of such potential at risk cases increases again when an identified alleged abuser in cases of child sexual abuse, confirmed in another health board area, moves into the Board's area. An audit of such referrals undertaken in 1999 identified 30 such cases in each community care area.

Legal advice indicates that the Board has a statutory obligation to determine and respond to cases of potential risk. However, as a substantial part of the assessment is the risk of alleged and convicted offenders re-offending a specialised service needs to be developed within the Board's adult services. The Board has no assessment or treatment services for adult sexual offenders.

The Board has, for several years, identified the need to develop an assessment unit for residential care with an emergency admissions facility. The development of this facility remains a priority. The Board secured funding and acquired a property 1996 to develop this facility in Moate, Co. Westmeath. However funding to complete the project remains

out-standing and the site has not been developed. Currently almost 90% of admissions into residential care are emergency admissions. The placement of an emergency, and therefore unplanned, admission into a medium term unit adversely affects the stability of the unit and the quality of care the staff can provide.

The physical location and/or the physical structure of three of the Board's residential child care units are no longer suitable for the client group now in residential care. The residential child care services require accommodation in large towns with a range of educational, training and recreational facilities.

The exclusion of many children in residential care from education both at national and secondary level further disadvantages this already vulnerable client group.

There is no out of hours social work/child protection service with consequential service delivery problems.

The provision of psychiatric services to the 16 to 18 age group continues to be problematic.

There is a need for an integrated information technology system to support the notification and tracking of allegations of child abuse, to allow access to information

to Accident and Emergency Departments and to Paediatrics Units and to support the minimum data set requirements of the Department of Health and Children.

The Board supports the ethos of the Freedom of Information Act and works in an open partnership approach with families. While no additional resources were put in place to meet the additional obligations of the Act. F.O.I enquiries have adversely affected service delivery due to the time required to process enquiries. Many enquiries are complicated by the number of third parties that have to be consulted and by the fact that in child protection cases most of the clients are involuntary clients.

While the number of children being placed for adoption continues to decrease the Board, notwithstanding, continues to receive and increasing number of tracing enquiries from birth mothers and adult adoptees. This places an additional strain on staff resources.

Strategic Direction for 2000

The Board in the delivery of its Child Protection and Welfare Services aims:

- To provide an appropriately responsive service to allegations of child abuse and neglect.
- To develop preventative and family support services which emphasise prevention rather than intervention.
- To work in partnership with voluntary groups and partnerships in order to provide a broad range of services to meet the needs of children and their parents.
- To provide a range of in-service training programmes to ensure that all staff who have contact with children are appropriately trained.

Planned Service Developments in 2000

Child Protection:

The 'Children First' National Child Protection and Welfare Guidelines, launched by the Department of Health & Children in September 1999, will be implemented in the coming months and will provide a national framework for the delivery of child protection and welfare services. There is a considerable resource implication for the Board in relation to the implementation of these guidelines. The Board has, therefore, agreed to comply with the national implementation schedule that will allow for the commencement of the implementation of the Guidelines in 2000. To that end all relevant staff will be provided with a copy of the "Children First" Guidelines and the Board will develop and deliver a Phase I training programme for relevant staff.

All relevant staff will be supplied with a copy of the "Children First" Guidelines, and will acknowledge receipt of it.

The Board will develop and deliver a graded training programme for staff appropriate to their needs.

Additional Funding Child Protection Services £0.150m

Strategic Focus	Services provisions / Targets/Performance Indicators/Costs in 2000
<p>To ensure the Board complies with the nationally agreed implementation schedule for the Children First National Child Protection and Welfare Guidelines</p>	<p>Target 3.2.1</p> <p>The Board will appoint an implementation person to co-ordinate the implementation process.</p> <p>£0.033 m</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Implementation Person in post by the end of April 2000</p> <p>Target 3.2.2</p> <p>The distribution of the ‘Children First’ guidelines to all relevant staff and voluntary agencies. All copies received will be signed for.</p>
<p>To provide a</p>	<p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Distribution completed by the end of April 2000</p> <p>Target 3.2.3</p> <p>Provision of briefing sessions for all relevant personnel within the Board and for all relevant agencies.</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Briefing sessions to commence by the end of March 2000.</p> <p>Target 3.2.4</p> <p>Appointment of One Training / Resource person for "Children First"</p> <p>The design and provision of a Phase I Training Programme on</p>

<p>graded training programme for all staff who have responsibilities under the Guidelines</p>	<p>"Children First".</p> <p>£0.033 m</p> <p>Target 3.2.5</p> <p>The appointment of One Grade III post to support the implementation person's post and the training post.</p> <p>£0.015m</p> <p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>Training resource persons in post. Development and delivery of the training programme.</p> <p>Grade 3 person in post.</p>
<p>The Board will inform voluntary childcare agencies of their responsibilities under the Children First Guidelines</p>	<p>Target 3.2.6</p> <p>The appointment of a resource person to provide information and advice to non-statutory and voluntary agencies involved with the children</p> <p>Cost £0.025 m</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Resource person in post.</p>
<p>To ensure the accurate recording and tracing of all allegations of child abuse and neglect</p>	<p>Target 3.2.7</p> <p>Development of a Child Protection Notification System – Grade 3 supports to Child Care Managers x 2</p> <p>Cost £0.030 m</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Administrative supports in place.</p> <p>Target 3.2.8</p> <p>The Board's Management Services will research in co-operation with the Child Care Managers and recommend on the implementation of an integrated information technology system that will meet the</p>

requirements of the child protection information system, to be compatible with the Board's master card index and provide the information base for the minimum data set requirements of the Department of Health and Children.

Performance Indicator

Implementation of the appropriate information technology system.

The Board will appoint a project team to:

- Develop a clear statement of service provision for adult victims of past abuse
- Examine the identified deficit in the report in relation to the exchange of medical information
- Examine the role and function of the child psychiatric team in matters of sexual and emotional abuse
- Define the role of general practitioners
- The reporting of incidents of child abuse detected in hospital in the paediatric and Accident and Emergency settings

The Board will consider the recommendations from the West of Ireland Farmer Case Report to identify the required protocols and initiatives to deal with similar cases

Target 3.2.9

The Board will appoint a project team to review and up date the format and contents of the Section 8 report, required under the Children's Act.

Performance Indicator

Report completed by the end of March 2000

The Board will consider the contents and format of the Annual Section 8 Report on the Adequacies of the

<p>Child Care and Family Support Services</p>	
<p>The Board in conjunction with relevant voluntary and statutory agencies will promote and review issues on a regional and area basis in relation to child abuse</p>	<p>Target 3.2.10</p> <p>The establishment of a Regional Child Protection Committee</p> <p>Cost £0.005 m</p> <p>Target 3.2.11</p> <p>The establishment of 2 (one per Community Care Area) Local Child Protection Committees</p> <p>Cost £0.010 m</p>
	<p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Committees in place</p>
<p>The Board will contribute proportionately to nationally funded initiatives in order to ensure an integrated approach to the implementation "Children First".</p> <p>The Board will provide appropriate and timely intervention into cases of alleged child abuse and neglect</p>	<p>Target 3.2.12</p> <p>The Board will contribute £23,000 to the provision of costs associated with centrally developed initiatives such as training videos.</p> <p>Cost £0.023m</p> <p>Target 3.2.13</p> <p>The Board will endeavour to continue to assess all allegations of child abuse and neglect within the shortest possible time-frame</p> <p>Target 3.2.14</p> <p>Quality Initiative :-The Board will research the resource implication of introducing a comprehensive assessments process into child abuse</p>

	<p>investigations.</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>There is no waiting list for initial investigations of allegations of child abuse.</p>
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Foster Care

Strategic Direction for 2000

The Board will continue to promote the concept that where it is in the best interest of the child, foster care or relative care as the primary form of alternate care, ensuring that the child requiring care will be given the positive experience of living in a family.

Additional Funding Foster Care £0.213m

Strategic Focus	Services provisions / Targets/Performance Indicators/Costs in 2000
<p>To continue working with foster carers and the Irish Foster Care Association in addressing the training needs of foster carers</p> <p>To ensure that every foster child's written plan is reviewed</p>	<p>Target 3.2.15</p> <p>The Board's Foster Care Support Social Workers and their foster care colleagues who trained in 1999 will deliver a series of specific training programmes for foster carers.</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Delivery of four training programmes (one per county) by June 2000.</p> <p>Cost £0.010 m</p>

in accordance with the Placement of Children in Foster Care Regulations 1995

To have a range of foster care placement options and supports for children requiring foster care

Target 3.2.16

To ensure that every child in care has a written care plan.

Target 3.2.17

To continue the pilot project on care plans reviews undertaken as a quality initiative and to progress it as continuous quality improvement in child care. The appointment of two Social Work Team Leaders to continue to progress the care plan review process in a project management format.

Cost **£0.070 m**

Performance Indicator

Social Work Team Leaders in post and care plan reviews taking place in accordance with the Regulations.

Target 3.2.18

To extend the independent carers programme to Longford/Westmeath

£0.030.m

Target 3.2.19

To review with the Board's foster carers and the Irish Foster Care Association the range of supports currently provided, and those required, to assist in the recruitment and retention of foster carers.

Target 3.2.20

To financially support foster placements with a wide range of discretionary payments.

£0.050 m

Target 3.2.21

To meet the full year costs of special increases in foster care allowances for children under 12 years of age and to provide for an

	<p>increase in allowances for over 12's from June 2000</p> <p>£0.050m</p> <p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>Appointment of social worker to develop an independent carers programme in Longford/Westmeath.</p> <p>Review of foster care supports completed needs identified and costed.</p>
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Residential Care

Strategic Direction for 2000

The provision of a medium to short term placement for children for whom a family based placement is not an option.

The Social Service Inspectorate was established in 1999 and will inspect residential children's centres in order to ensure national standards in the provision residential care. Inspections will commence in January 2000, with the first inspection for one of the Board's centres in February 2000. The standards and criteria for the inspection process have become available and the Board has commenced a process to consider the standards and criteria for inspections and assess the readiness of the services in this regard.

The introduction of the SAP (Systems Applications and Products) financial system will allow for further progress to be made in identifying the costs of residential care and coding it to the appropriate cost centres.

The Board's Residential Child Care Services are provided in 5 group homes and one high support unit all located in the Longford/Westmeath community care area. They provide a total of 25 main stream residential places and 3 high support places.

It is estimated that the high support requirements of the Board will be six to eight places annually. In 1999 the Board entered into discussions with the Northern Eastern Health Board, the North Western Health Board, and the Western Health Board to provide a regional high support facility. Following an appraisal of site options in the four health boards, a site has been identified in Castleblaney Co. Monaghan and the project is being progressed on this basis.

Additional funding for Residential Child Care Services €0.040m

Strategic Focus	Services provisions / Targets/Performance Indicators/Costs in 2000
	<p>Target 3.2.22</p> <p>The Board will appoint a project team to audit the current residential child care provision to ensure compliance with the standards of the Social Service Inspectorate.</p> <p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>Project team appointed and audit completed.</p> <p>Target 3.2.23</p> <p>The Board will support a representative to work with the joint management team to process the development of a high support unit in Castleblaney, Co Monaghan.</p> <p>Separate Funding Performance Indicators</p> <p>Appointment of Joint Management Team.and continued involvement of Board in the overall operation and direction of the project</p> <p>Target 3.2.24</p> <p>The appointment of a project team to progress the recommendations of the review on residential care including :</p> <p>The replacement of three units</p> <p>The relocation of at least one of the units in Laois/Offaly</p> <p>Community Care area</p> <p>The provision of an emergency unit with assessment facilities.</p>

Performance Indicators

Project team in place.

Target 3.2.25

The Board's six residential units will individually review the Board's residential purpose and function statement to accurately reflect the individuality, client profile and ethos of each unit.

Performance Indicator

A purpose and function statement in place in each residential child care unit.

Target 3.2.26

The care plans of children in residential care will be reviewed at a minimum twice annually.

Performance Indicator

Each child in residential will have their care plan reviewed in accordance with the Child Care Regulations 1995.

Target 3.2.27

The Board will appoint from within the current staff complement a unit leader with responsibility for staff supervision and development to each unit.

Performance Indicator

Unit Leaders in post.

Target 3.2.28

The Board will train 9 residential child care staff as trainers in T.C.I. (therapeutic crisis intervention).

Cost £0.010m

	<p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Trainers training completed by March 2000</p> <p>Target 3.2.29</p> <p>The Social Services Inspectorate "Standards and Criteria for the Inspection of Children's Residential Centres" will be used as the standard of service provision in the Board's residential child care units. Each unit will audit their current service provision against the standards and identify areas of compliance, areas of variance and recommendations and timeframes required to ensure compliance with the Social Service Inspectorate standards.</p> <p>£0.040m</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Audit completed and needs prioritised.</p> <p>Target 3.2.30</p> <p>To appoint house parents and assistant parents on a permanent basis</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Staff appointed.</p>
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Adoption and Tracing Services

The Study on inter country adoption "Towards a Standardised Framework for Inter Country Adoption" commissioned by the Department of Health and Children reported in 1999, and has mapped the way forward for the delivery of inter country adoption assessments. The Board is committed to meeting the requirements of the report in the delivery of its inter country adoption service. The Study found that the Midland Health Board had the lowest number of applicants per head of population. A regional adoption, foster care and tracing service has been proposed to meet the requirements of these inter related services. Regional protocols and procedures based on the recommendations of the Study will be devised in 2000, and a full regional service will be developed as funding comes available. Good practice models support an inter-grated service rather than a service solely dedicated to adoption assessment.

The Board received a total of 29 applications for inter country adoption assessment in 1999. An additional allocation of £0.011 m was provided to address the waiting list and the waiting time for commencement of assessment has now been reduced to a maximum of 12 months.

Inter Country Adoption: Additional funding 2000 £0.017m

Strategic Focus	Services provisions / Targets/Performance Indicators/Costs in 2000
<p>To implement the recommendations of the study on inter country adoption</p>	<p>Target 3.2.31</p> <p>Appointment of a project team to develop policies, protocols and procedures to ensure the Board's compliance with the Standardised Framework.</p> <p>Target 3.2.32</p> <p>The provision of administrative support as recommended in the Study.</p> <p>Cost £0.017m</p> <p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>Policies, protocols and procedures in place.</p> <p>Administrative support in place.</p>
<p>To ensure a uniform regional approach to domestic adoptions</p>	<p>Target 3.2.33</p> <p>Development of policies, protocols and procedures in relation to domestic adoption.</p> <p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>Policies, procedures and protocols in place.</p>

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Family Support Services

Additional Funding 2000 £0.050m

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Strategic Focus	Services provisions / Targets/Performance Indicators/Costs in 2000
<p>The Board provides a range of Family Support Services to in recognition of parents as the principal carers of their children</p>	<p>Target 3.2.34</p> <p>The Board will examine, in the context of a parenting, review the range of parenting courses provided by both Board staff and voluntary agencies.</p> <p>Target 3.2.35</p> <p>The development and provision of targeted parenting programmes to parents experiencing difficulties to be provided initially in Clara and Birr, Co Offaly</p> <p>Target 3.2.36</p> <p>The continued provision of "Parenting Plus" programmes to families in Laois coping with problematic children, or about whom the Board may have concerns.</p> <p>The continued provision of the Lone Parents project in Portlaoise</p> <p>Target 3.2.37</p> <p>The provision of a toy library in Offaly</p> <p>Cost £0.005m</p> <p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>Family support worker and community based child care worker in post in Offaly to deliver parenting programmes.</p> <p>Parenting review completed.</p>

	<p>Cost £0.005m</p> <p>(Separate funding initiative for Department of Health & Children)</p> <p>Target 3.2.38</p> <p>The extension of family support services to children at risk in Longford</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Family Support Worker in post in Longford</p> <p>Cost £0.017m</p>
<p>The Board will provide services to children and families that focus on prevention rather than intervention</p>	<p>Target 3.2.39</p> <p>The further development of the Springboard Project in Athlone aimed at primary prevention work with children and families</p> <p>Cost £0.278 m</p> <p>(Separate funding initiative for Department of Health & Children)</p> <p>Target 3.2.40</p> <p>The development of a Springboard Project in Tullamore £0.100 m</p> <p>Target 3.2.41</p> <p>The restructuring of the Edenderry Resource Centre into a Springboard type project with a focus on a client based service as compared to the community focus at present</p> <p>£0.024 m</p> <p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>Extension of service provided and the catchment area of Athlone Springboard Project.</p> <p>Commencement of the project and provision of services in the</p>

	<p>Tullamore Springboard Project.</p> <p>Restructuring of the Centre and service provision in Edenderry</p> <p>Separate Funding (Springboard) £0.378 m</p> <p>Development Funding (Edenderry)</p> <p><u>£0.024 m</u></p> <p>Total Cost £0.402 m</p>
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PRE SCHOOL SERVICES

Additional Funding 2000

Grants for pre-schools in disadvantaged areas £0.161m

Special pre- school projects £0.040m

Strengthening the inspection process and teams £0.121m

Total £0.322m

Strategic Focus	Services provisions / Targets/Performance Indicators/Costs in 2000
The establishment, on a permanent basis, of a structured pre school inspection team	<p>Target 3.1.42</p> <p>The Board will appoint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Pre school Services Officer, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 permanent inspection teams comprising of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Environmental Health Officer 1 Public Health Nurse - 1 post of Pre school Advisor to provide advise and training to Pre-School Service Providers - 1 Grade 3 administrative support.

The Board will support community pre-school services

- Provision of suitable accommodation

Costs **£0.121m**

Performance Indicator

All posts filled in a permanent capacity.

Target 3.2.43

The Board will encourage and support Pre school Pilot Projects - especially community pre-schools. The Board will provide funding for an Employer Demonstrated Child Care Initiative under A.D.M for a joint project between the Board and M.D.A (Mountmellick Development Association).

Costs **£0.020 m**

Target 3.2.44

Further projects for funding will be the subject of discussions with relevant voluntary organisations and with the Department of Health and Children.

Costs **£0.020 m**

Performance Indicator

Financial support to pilot projects, details to follow from agreed projects with the Department of Health & Children.

Target 3.2.45

The Board will encourage and support the development and expansion of service provision.

Cost **£0.161 m**

Performance Indicator

Pre-schools in disadvantaged areas assisted and expended.

<p>The Board will grant-aid pre-schools in disadvantaged areas and for children at risk</p>	
<p>To assure quality childcare in pre school services</p>	<p>Target 3.2.46</p> <p>The Board will inspect all notified pre school services by June 2000 under the Child Care (Pre school Services) Regulations 1996.</p> <p>Target 3.2.47</p> <p>To re-inspect the services inspected in 1998</p> <p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>Inspections of notified services.</p> <p>Target 3.2.48</p> <p>To provide support and advice to service providers and service users.</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Childcare policies for pre schools services devised by the Pre school Unit will be circulated to service providers depending on requirements following inspections.</p> <p>Advisory visits carried out to proposed pre school services and existing services seeking to expand their premises / service.</p> <p>Target 3.2.49</p> <p>To address the training needs of service providers and comply with Article 56 (2) of the Child Care Act 1991 i.e. promoting the development of children attending pre school services.</p>

	<p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>In conjunction with Partnerships / Grants agencies in the Midland Health Board area, training for pre-school service providers will be ongoing in the following areas :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection • Early Childhood diseases • Care programme for pre-school service • The Child Care (pre-school services) Regulations 1996 • Design consideration for a pre-school service • Food hygiene in full day care services • Encouraging positive behaviour in pre-school children • Care programmes for pre-school children
	<p>Target 3.2.50</p> <p>To address the growing demand for pre-school services in a co-ordinated manner.</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Representation of the Board's pre-school services at ADM and Partnerships Child Care Working Group.</p> <p>Target 3.2.51</p> <p>To meet the needs of employer demonstrated child care initiatives</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>The provision of advice to voluntary and statutory bodies seeking to provide pre school facilities and thus permit mothers to enter the work force / avail of training.</p> <p>Target 3.2.52</p> <p>To meet the increasing requests for statistical data and to respond to</p>

	<p>escalating enquiries relating to the provision of pre school services.</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>The provision, on request of an up to date directory of notified service providers, addresses and type of service provision and the development of a database to respond to requests for statistical or other information.</p> <p>Target 3.2.53</p> <p>To ensure uniform enforcement of the standard operational procedure and protocols which have been developed by the Board.</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Enforcement of procedures and protocols board-wide</p>

The Children's Bill

Additional funding of £0.0270 m has been provided to meet the new statutory duties that will be assigned to the Board on the enactment of this Bill. Areas that will need to be specifically addressed are :-

- Family Welfare Conferences
- The duty placed on Health Boards to seek special care or interim special care orders.
- The establishment of a Special Residential Service Board.
- The implication of raising the age of criminal responsibility from 7 to 12 years.
- The requirement for the Board to inspect residential centres for children with physical and learning disability.
- A range of duties Health Board will be obliged to provide to the courts and Garda

Strategic Focus	Services provisions / Targets/Performance Indicators/Costs in 2000
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<p>The Board will assess the implications of the Children's Bill in order to prepare a strategic plan to meet these statutory duties</p>	<p>Target 3.2.54</p> <p>The Board will appoint a project team to urgently assess the required service developments, and cost implications to the Board of the Bill.</p> <p>Target 3.2.55</p> <p>The project team will prepare a range of submissions for further funding on other requirements of the Bill for consideration for additional funding that the Department of Health and Children has indicated may become available.</p>
	<p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>A detailed plan on the implementation and time scale for the services required.</p> <p>Submissions prepared on additional services and projects</p>

Homeless Youths

Strategic Focus	Services provisions / Targets/Performance Indicators/Costs in 2000
<p>The Board will provide service for homeless youths in line with the National Youth Homeless Strategy to be launched in 2000</p>	<p>Target 3.2.56</p> <p>The Board, following discussions with the Department of Health and Children, will develop initiatives in line with the National Youth Homeless Strategy</p> <p>Cost £0.050 m</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Development of initiative in collaboration with the Department of Health & Children.</p>
<p>Development of a training programme for</p>	<p>Target 3.2.57</p> <p>The Board will develop Phase I Training Programme in connection with "Children First".</p>

planned delivery of a Phase 1 training programme in connection with Children First

Development and maintenance of best practices in all aspects of child care based on information, policies and procedures, good practice and applied skills

Costs already referred to in Child Protection in targets 3.2.4 and 3.2.5.

Target 3.2.58

Appointment of a training/resource person.

Appointment of a Grade 3 Officer to provide administrative support to the training service.

Costs already referred to in Child Protection targets 3.2.48. and 3.2.5.

Performance Indicators

Programme developed and training officer and administrative support in place. Targets 3.2.4 and 3.2.5

Target 3.2.59

Delivery of training for foster carers in association with the Irish Foster Care Association.

Performance Indicator

One training course delivered in each Community Care Area by June 2000.

Target 3.2.60

Continuation of courses on court room skills, risk assessment ,risk management in families, therapeutic crisis intervention, chairing of case conferences and case reviews, group work and facilitation.

Performance Indicator

	<p>Training delivered.</p> <p>Target 3.2.61</p> <p>As a quality initiative an induction course for all new staff in child care will be developed and two courses delivered in 2000. Target 3.2.4 and 3.2.5.</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>Induction course developed and two courses delivered</p> <p>Target 3.2.62</p> <p>The provision of video recording equipment in child friendly settings, and appropriate training in order to ensure best practice when interviewing children</p> <p>Cost £0.100 m</p> <p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>Video equipment requirements researched and specialist training (level 3) provided for the C.S.A.Teams (child sexual abuse)</p>

Additional funding for Adults Victims of Past Abuse £0.190m

Counselling Services for Adults who have Experienced Abuse in Childhood

Reference also Mental Health Services Target 2.27 to Target 2.30

Strategic Focus	Service Developments, Targets and Performance Indicators
<p>To provide appropriate responses to individuals seeking counselling.</p>	<p>A project steering group will be established to oversee the development of this new community based service.</p> <p>£0.190m was allocated in 1999 for the introduction of this service an additional £0.190 has been allocated in the Net Determination.</p>

<p>To ensure seamless access to other services and supports required.</p> <p>To monitor service delivery, utilisation and outcomes</p>	<p>Target 3.2.63</p> <p>Appointment of a Director of Counselling , up to 6 Counsellors, and Secretarial support.</p> <p>Target 3.2.64</p> <p>To develop protocols and procedures in line with best practice and legislation.</p> <p>Target 3.2.65</p> <p>To provide support services in adoption and family tracing for individuals in need.</p> <p>Target 3.2.65</p> <p>To carry out research in accordance with nationally defined parameters, and establishment of a data base</p> <p>Total Cost: £0.190m</p> <p>Performance Indicator</p> <p>That adults requiring counselling are offered and receive counselling in line with best practice.</p>
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