

Press Release

Date: 21st September 2017

€3 Million Funding Secured for Innovative New Programme to Tackle ADHD

The ‘Changing Lives Initiative’ is a new cross border project which aims to reduce dependence on medicalised intervention in young children who have behaviours consistent with ADHD.

The €3million initiative is being supported by the European Union’s INTERREG VA Programme, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and will focus on border areas in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland. Roll out of the programme will commence next month and will benefit over 2,000 families in these regions.

The Changing Lives Initiative is aimed at families of children aged 3 to 7 with a pattern of behaviour consistent with ADHD. It is estimated that as many as 8 to 11% of school aged children have ADHD. While international guidelines for treating this disorder suggest parent education and training programmes as the first line of treatment, this option is not available to families in these regions.

The Changing Lives Initiative will offer a programme for families consisting of an information and awareness raising programme, a screening programme, and a treatment service in the form of the 20 session Incredible Years parenting programme. In tandem with this process there will be training for those working with young children, in particular teachers and early year’s professionals.

The new Initiative will be delivered across County Louth, Colin/West Belfast, and the Argyll & Bute region of Scotland. The Initiative is being delivered by five partner organisations: Archways (lead partner), Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, Dundalk Institute of Technology, The Genesis Programme (Louth Leader Partnership) and NHS Highland.

Welcoming the funding Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive Officer with the SEUPB, said: **“This project that will have a transformative effect on the lives of thousands of children and families affected by ADHD. It also underlines the EU’s commitment to supporting the**



development of more efficient health and social care delivered through new and innovative cross-border partnerships to all citizens. The cross border collaborative partnership involved in this project will deliver upon an internationally recognised good practice model of intervention for children with ADHD and hyperkinetic disorders.”

Aileen O’Donoghue, CEO of Archways said **“The Changing Lives Initiative is an innovative new project that will provide a much needed support for families with children aged 3 to 7 years who are concerned about ADHD. The Initiative aims to significantly reduce dependence on medicalised interventions among this group of children by providing a high quality evidence based programme to the local community. This project will make a real difference to families in these regions.”**

“We are extremely grateful to the European Union’s INTERREG VA Programme for funding this initiative.”

The Initiative will be rolled out in County Louth and West Belfast in coming months, with roll out in Scotland due to commence in Autumn next year. Further information on how families can avail of the programme will be available soon from the partner organisations.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department for Health in Northern Ireland and the Department of Health in Ireland.

- Ends

Notes to Editor:

What is ADHD?

- ADHD is the chronic, debilitating disorder which has a substantial effect on many aspects of a person’s life, from family and school life to their social environments. It is characterised by considerably high levels of impulsivity, hyperactivity and inattention.

Archways

- Archways is a national organisation working in collaboration with local and national agencies to promote and research evidence based programmes for children & young people.



- Archways provides a bridge between evidence based programmes and communities and supports the development of sustainable linked practices that build on existing strengths and resources.
- Archways was established in 2006. Initially the role of Archways was to promote the roll-out and evaluation of the Incredible Years programme in Ireland. Over the last number of years Archways have begun delivering and supporting other evidence based interventions including the Mentoring for Achievement Programme (MAP) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT).

SEUPB

- The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU Structural Funds Programmes, PEACE IV and INTERREG VA which are designed to enhance cross-border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society.
- The Programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and in the case of INTERREG VA, Western Scotland.
- The INTERREG VA Programme has a value of €283 million and aims to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu