

Healthier Wealthier Children Partnership work with Nurseries in South East Glasgow

In the South East of Glasgow, for a period of time Healthier Wealthier Children referrals from the Castlemilk area were very low in comparison to other areas.

After discussions it was suggested that this was due to the high number of child care placements in the area which would mean that families would possibly have less contact with health visiting staff. Some of the nurseries in the area were approached overwhelmingly reported that they would like to link in with HWC and they felt in a prime position to identify families experiencing money worries and make onward referrals. There was some concern about the amount of referrals this may result in and the shift moving away from health.

It was decided that nurseries in the area would be invited to make referrals and provided with leaflets and referral forms. Some measures were taken to ensure that the project maintained a health focus and the nurseries were encouraged to link in with their assigned health visitors to discuss families who were struggling financially and also to highlight to families that the project was a health delivered project and they could also be referred from their health visitor. No problems were experienced with high numbers of referrals from nurseries.

More general development work with the nurseries proved to be very successful and well received. For example, the Nursery Head at the Jeely Piece Nursery has been very receptive to various financial inclusion pieces of work, i.e. an information coffee morning for parents on healthy start (most families in the nursery are entitled to Healthy Start vouchers) and staff training sessions.

All nurseries were offered an information stall at their parents' evenings which was delivered by the development worker. Here parents had the opportunity to hear about HWC, how they could be referred and discuss any other queries they may have.