

## OUR FOUR SERVICES

Each of our services is mapped onto the milestones on the life journey of a child and parent.

Four carefully designed services for a community of children and parents, promoting a consistent set of messages and methods from home to early years settings, to school and to community supports - the pillars of the youngballymun strategy.

The child benefits. The community strengthens.

### READY STEADY GROW

Service for 0-3 year olds and their parents in the early stages of their child's development, delivered with HSE and community partners, promoting infant mental health

Every new born baby deserves the best possible start on life's journey. Parents and primary carers are the most important people in their baby's life and development so it is vital that they have every support they need.

Ready Steady Grow does exactly this. Through it, babies are supported by:

- their parents' know-how and confidence as they foster their baby's language development, health and wellbeing
- the special bond between them and their parents and carers - so critical for healthy infant brain development and progress during the early years and beyond
- public health nurses, speech and language therapists and psychologists from our HSE Primary Care team who work wonders every day guiding and advising parents



I have come a long way because of this programme. It's helped me understand how to react to my child. It's also made us bond more.

Ballymun Parent



### LEARNING YEARS

Service for early years centres providing training, coaching and mentoring for the implementation Siolta and Aistear frameworks through the High Scope curriculum

All the evidence tells us that if a child receives quality Early Years Care and Education, they are better prepared for school and for life. So Learning Years is our service for all babies, wobblers, toddlers and pre-schoolers in early years care and education centres across Ballymun. Together with dedicated managers and teams we achieve quality standards of care and learning through:

- delivering custom-built training, coaching and mentoring
- bringing Siolta and Aistear into real time practice through the Highscope curriculum
- building children's emotional, social and physical development and their learning
- key worker links with parents ensuring continuity of learning and care

We learn. We share our learning.



### INCREDIBLE YEARS

Integrated programmes for parents, children and teachers to develop children's social, emotional and behaviour skills

Children need their parents, carers and teachers to protect and develop their emotional health, behaviour and social skills. Incredible Years programmes train and support teachers and parents to do just that - consistently, at home and in school. Incredible Years has been carefully designed as a teacher/parent/child programme, spanning school and home to:

- support positive emotional and social development of children
- enable them to learn how to understand and manage feelings, behaviours and interactions
- enable parents and teachers learn improve their relationship and communication with their children
- create a strong bedrock for successful learning in primary school

The children have become more enthusiastic and their reluctance to write seems to be gone.

Ballymun Teacher

National policy improves. More children benefit.

### WRITE MINDED

Literacy strategy working with schools, families and community organisations to integrate language and literacy learning into children's experience

Core to youngballymun's strategy is pioneering literacy and language development - using bright, inspiring and effective methods and putting into practice every day the international evidence of what works. Write Minded's language and literacy programme:

- guides parents in bringing language and literacy into their child's everyday life in fun and surprising ways
- has a unique partnership with primary schools providing coaching and mentoring supports for and between teachers
- has strong connections with after-school and youth projects extending language and literacy action and benefits beyond school and home into leisure hours



I love writing. Some people don't love writing but what if you couldn't write? You wouldn't get a good job or a good education so it's good to write and I love writing.

Ballymun Primary School Child

Making sure that a newborn's development is activated and supported today; that a pre-schooler is in a centre that promotes her engagement in active and purposeful play; that a Junior Infant child in primary school is emotionally and socially confident and ready to learn, and: that a third class pupil is building the literacy skills that will see him succeed in secondary school and make the journey to third level education.

Together the four age and life-stage services work to ensure that Ballymun children are fulfilling their potential as they journey through school, into further and higher education and throughout their lives as learners, workers, citizens and parents.

Who we are.  
What we do.  
How we're succeeding.

Every child growing well, learning well, being well and doing well.



youngballymun

Pioneering Prevention and Early Intervention

## Changing children's chances every day, at every life stage, in every key service.

In Ballymun, positive change for children is now a reality. The evidence is proving that local children's chances are being considerably improved.

effort – launched a pioneering plan, collective action and hard work. The results are measured and checked and shared.

This hasn't happened by accident. Careful planning and preparation – and a massive cross-community

The outcome? A community transforming itself day by day, child by child, measure by measure.

## At the heart of the youngballymun strategy are FOUR CORE IDEAS that drive change for children.

# 1

### A child develops at the centre of a wider complex world.

**Our children thrive in a world that is connected.**

A child grows in an eco system of care, influence and support.

In youngballymun we believe everything in a child's world is connected. Homes, families, friends, relatives, carers, health services, pre-schools and schools. Each link connects, forming a critical eco system around the child. When parts of the system aren't working, the child is held back. Or the child can be failed.

youngballymun is here to ensure this eco-system is strong and we support the community of Ballymun in creating a skilled, flourishing environment where children thrive.



# 2

### A child's life is a series of connected crucial stages each strengthening the next

**Each stage needs an investment of the best knowledge and skills - and adequate resources.**

We work with children and families ensuring that all the pillar supports and services are in place at the right times beginning with infancy, through the vital early years, and in every year of primary school - building a strong platform for success in secondary school and beyond. Every aspect of a child's life and development requires tailored supports, skills, knowledge and resources.



# 3

### youngballymun is at the centre of a collective community-wide, skills-deep response.

**The people who live and work in Ballymun are the heroes of change for the children of the area.**

Parents, children, early years educators, teachers, public health nurses, speech and language therapists, psychologists, youth workers, family support workers, social workers – and so many more – are every day on the frontline of change and progress.

At policy-level, Government is committed to interagency, cross-community services and to tackling child poverty.

It takes a collective effort – practice and policy – to deliver collective impact. That collective impact needs to be planned, negotiated, coordinated, supported and with so many committed and skilled people, professionals and services involved, youngballymun is proud to do so.



**youngballymun**  
– adding up to collective impact

# 4

### We are ambitious for children. Ambitious for our community. Ambitious for urgent and lasting change.

**Childhood can't wait. The damage that entrenched barriers like child poverty and disadvantage cause to children's lives and learning must be tackled – with urgency.**

Children can't wait. Childhood only exists in the here and now. Children in families stressed by financial hardship and joblessness will not be as happy, healthy, nor do as well at school as they can and should. The difficulties that harm childhood must be solved during childhood. That's why youngballymun is driving the need for urgency and providing answers and solutions.

The child benefits. The community strengthens. We learn. We share our learning. National policy improves. More children benefit.

### Testing our work, using what works best and sharing learning and results

For change to happen there needs to be a clear plan of what needs to be done, how it is done and how success is measured. youngballymun plays a crucial role as a facilitator, driver and co-ordinator of that plan.

The pioneering nature of youngballymun's area based strategy – the range and depth of local partners' expertise, the quality of the programme and the scale of the data collection and research – makes a rich learning community.

The scientific results demonstrating encouraging advances for local children are actively used to inform policy decisions and feed into the development of the best quality strategies for communities tackling the challenges of economic disadvantage.

Ensuring that better outcomes for children today lead to brighter futures for them and, in time, for their children too.

The Eco System of Childhood



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**youngballymun**  
Pioneering Prevention and Early Intervention

The **A**rea **B**ased **C**hildhood Programme 2013-2016

