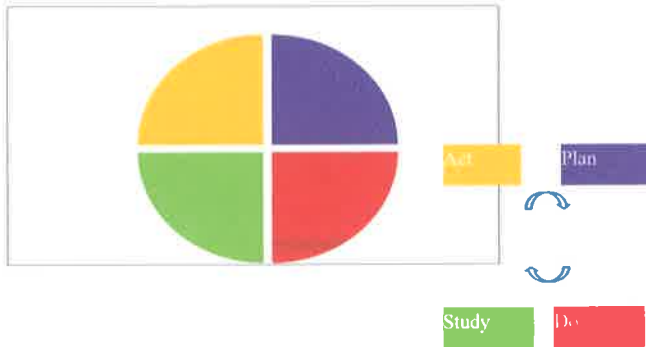


**SUPPORT FROM THE START
SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FUND REPORT FORM**



Use this form to help with feedback from service development fund projects.

Report author: *Linden Ross*

Organisation: *Lead-Dunbar* Date: *10/2/2015*

Project Title *Bright Stars - a support group for parents of young children with additional needs.*

Partners and engagement (Who was involved?)

Plan

1. The *local Primary school. East Lothian Playscheme. a local parent. Home-Start East Lothian.*

What did you want to achieve / what was your plan?

We wanted to provide a place for parents to bring their children to, who had/were awaiting a diagnosis relating to their additional needs. Parents often find attending mainstream groups challenging and excluded.

The plan was to provide parents with the opportunity of peer support, the sharing of experiences and knowledge and to hear speakers on relevant topics on occasion.

Do

2. **What did you do? (Please include successes, major events or milestones.)**

A local parent who was keen to help provide such a group was enlisted. We provided set up costs of £50.00 for hospitality expenses. We had links with the local school and they provided two rooms. We set a target of 5 attending families within 6-8 weeks of beginning and we achieved that within 2/3 weeks. E.L. Playscheme provided activities for the children for a number of weeks to give parents time to build relationships. H-S volunteer supported the parent initially, to run the group.

Study 3.

On reflection do you think you achieved what you had planned to do? Can you evidence what you achieved?

We achieved what we initially set out to do and continued for a period of time. We had further plans to recruit volunteers to assist with the group.

3a. Tell us about any difficulties and barriers to achieving your plan:

Short term difficulties included time commitments for the parent. The support from Home-Start came to a natural conclusion. Recruited volunteers became unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances.

Act

4.

What are the next steps for your project? How can it be sustained and improved?

Please include any key learning points that you want to share from your project.

① *The difficulties although disappointing, were not a shock to the group and we have continued to address them.*

Two volunteers have now been identified - one by a professional colleague and one from our SFTS group who was previously a Health visitor.

② *Two meetings have taken place with Anne Cockburn who is the lead professional at Kidzone in Tranent.*

Hopes are high that the intention to turn Bright Stars into Kidzone at Drumbar, may come to fruition.

£100.00 Budgeted, £25.00 spent

5. Financial report:

£50.00 set up costs

£50 float later on.

£100.00

7. Anything else you would like to add:

Although somewhat predictable difficulties have arisen, this has not dampened the enthusiasm and determination of the Dunbar SFTS group to enable this parents' group to achieve stability and permanence providing a much needed resource offering information, inclusive support, potential guidance to parents and in the future, activities for the children.

Despite these difficulties bringing the parents' group to a temporary halt, Dunbar and Area group has no regrets in launching this group as it has given the needs of parents in this area a higher profile. We were aware that these difficulties were likely to be part of the development of this project, and indeed they are proving to be catalysts for growth.