

Decision Process

Project Planning Team - Ballymun

Needs and resource assessment

- Themes, issues, and generalizations from a *contextual analysis* (e.g., demographics, geography)
- Themes, issues, and generalizations from *interviews with key informants* about needs, circumstances, causes, and priorities
- Themes, issues, and generalizations from the *group discussion with community stakeholders* about needs, circumstances, causes, and priorities
- Themes, issues, and generalizations from *focus groups with young people* about needs, circumstances, causes, and priorities
- Themes, issues, and generalizations from *informal surveys of youth service professionals* about needs, circumstances, causes, and priorities
- Themes, issues, and generalizations from *prior reports, indicator data, anecdotes & incidents, other needs assessments and outcome studies, and any other data sources* related to needs, circumstances, causes, and priorities
- Themes, issues, and generalizations derived from review of *resource mapping*

Delineate a set of statements that summarize the most salient aspects of what has been learned about young people and mental health in Ballymun.

Central Questions for Intervention Planning

- *Isolated and specific kinds of needs (e.g., self-harm) or cross-cutting needs (e.g., stress, youth disengagement)?*
- *Problem reduction or positive youth development (or both)?*
- *Risk and protective factors?*
- *Universal, indicated, or selected populations (or some combination)?*
- *High, moderate, or low magnitude problem(s)? High profile but challenging? High profile but manageable?*
- *Priority locations for service development?*
- *Isolated versus integrated system development? Which systems?*
- *Systemic versus incremental change?*

Priority Needs and Goals

- What is the current state of affairs? Desired state of affairs?
- Is there consensus about the nature and scope of the problem(s)?
- What areas (systems, subsystems) are most in need of change? What magnitude change is required?
- What are our initial goals for change? Which goals have priority? Is there a logical sequence among the goals?
- Over what timeframe is it reasonable to expect change to occur?
- What evidence would indicate that significant change has occurred (i.e., goals have been partially or fully attained)?

Delineate a set of goal statements that are clear, coherent, and integrated for the systems and subsystems that are to be targeted.

Intervention planning

- What kinds of prevention and intervention activities are suggested by the goal statements listed above?
- What are the relative advantages and disadvantages of each? What data are available to reach judgments about the various solution alternatives?
- In order for a particular solution alternative to work, what features must it have?

Describe the overall strategy, specifying the components of the intervention, their relationship to one another, the theory underlying the approach, the extent to which the strategy is evidence-based, and what outcomes are most likely to accrue when it is implemented