

Integrated Service Delivery: A child and youth centered strategy for New Brunswick

In 2009, Government committed to providing better services and programs for at-risk children and youth. The result of this commitment is a new strategy that enables departments to better work together to meet the needs of children and youth at risk. This approach is called the Integrated Service Delivery Framework.

The creation of this strategy was in response to the Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate's recommendations as outlined in the *Connecting the Dots Report*, *Ashley Smith report*; Department of Education's *MacKay Report*; and the Department of Health's *McKee's Report*. All four reports clearly identified a strong need for better coordination among departments to increase support to children and youth with multiple needs.

The main goal of this strategy is to provide seamless services and programs for children, youths and their families. This strategy is anticipated to:

- Improve services and programs to at-risk children and youth. It also includes those who have complex behavioural, emotional, mental health, education and physical health/well-being needs. These needs are often the result of unsafe/unstable social circumstances such as: homelessness, poverty, delinquency and fragile family relationships.
- Provide prevention and early intervention services, which are designed to promote positive conditions for a child's healthy development and to prevent the development of child abuse, emotional/behavioural problems, substance abuse and criminal behaviour.
- Provide relevant and timely services and programs to meet the needs of children and youth between the ages of 5 to 18 (up to age 21 for those within the education system). Including connections for early childhood intervention for the 0-5 age group and those making the transition to adult services.
- Establish an early care system, with a clinical team, which is focused on direct interventions within the school, community and family contexts.
- Make an inventory of regional and community-based programs and services available to families, youth and service providers.

In June 2010, Government selected two regional demonstration sites within New Brunswick: School District 9 and 10. The demonstration sites are expected to be in place by Fall 2011 and are the beginning phase in a province-wide implementation plan.

For more detailed information, see the June 2010 news release:

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.06.0990.html

Contacts:

Bob Eckstein, Integrated Service Delivery Director

Phone: (506) 444-2618

Bob.eckstein@gnb.ca

Melanie Doucet, Integrated Service Delivery Assistant Project Manager

Phone: (506) 444-2366

Melanie.doucet2@gnb.ca