



**Prioritising Children  
in Family Breakdown  
Proceedings**

**29<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
Croke Park**

# Barnardos & One Family Child Contact Centre Service Masterclass

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29<sup>th</sup> May 2013



Barnardos



# Supporting Child Contact: the Need for Child Contact Centres in Ireland



# VISION

That children have  
the opportunity to  
grow up  
enjoying a  
relationship  
with both their  
parents



  
Barnardos

  
onefamily  
Voice | Support | Action  
for One Parent Families

# Target group

- Children of separated parents where there are difficulties between the adults
- Children who are in care of the HSE



# Catchment area – child's address

- South Dublin County

Tallaght, Clondalkin, Palmerstown, Lucan, Rathcoole, Newcastle, Saggart, Templeogue and Rathfarnham

- Dublin North City HSE Area

Ballymun, Santry, North Inner City, Drumcondra, Whitehall, Donnycarney, Marino, Clontarf, East Wall, Cabra, Finglas, Blanchardstown, Mulhuddart, Corduff, Clonsilla, Castleknock



# Outcomes for children

- The child's emotional well being is improved though supporting their sense of identity and though having safe, positive, nurturing relationships with their key family members.
- This would be expected to impact positively on other areas of a child's life including behaviour, mental health and education.



# The journey

Referral,  
assessment, risk  
assessment

Pre-contact  
support

Family  
support

Contact

Post  
contact  
support

  
Barnardos

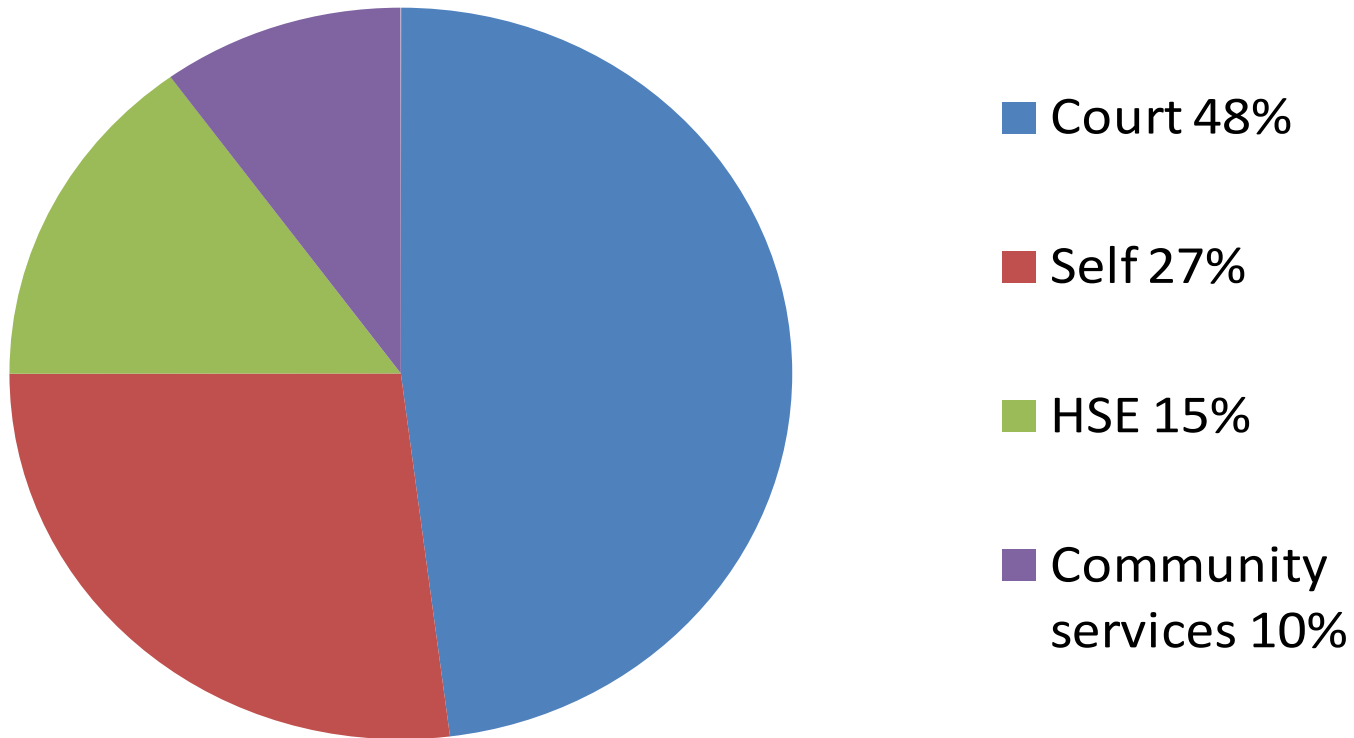
  
onefamily  
better lives for one-parent families



# Snapshot at end of 2012

- 394 enquiries to date (25% outside catchment area)
- 98 referrals to date
- 21 cases open – 40 children - Waiting list 19
- 234 Contact sessions taken up (74%) in previous 6 months
- 175 Family Support session taken up (84%) in previous 6 months

# Referral sources



# Children

- 1.9 children per family
- Average age 6 – Range 0-17
- 90% live with mother
- 70% do not have contact with the non-resident parent

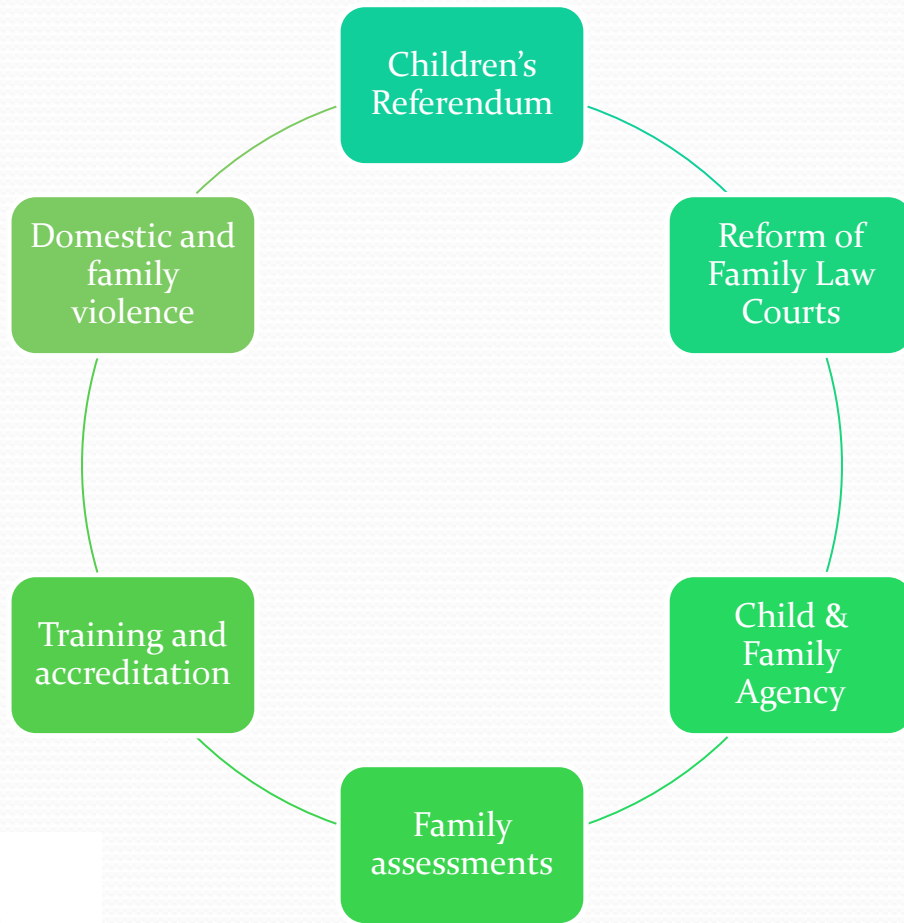


# Parents

- Unmarried 67% / Married 19% / Divorced 7% / Legally separated 7%
- 57% involved with courts 45% with lawyers
- 27% involved with HSE Social Work



# Policy Implications and Opportunities



*Without the centre we would still be in court fighting*

*Here my daughter is at the centre of everybody's concern*

*You just took all the drama out of it*

*I'm doing counselling. It is brilliant. This has helped a lot with my fears. I am now calmer*

*I like spending time in the centre because it's just me and my dad*

*I spoke to her Ma outside the court - we now both agree 'we are here for the baby'. We have buried everything else*

*This service is amazing. It has been immensely helpful. A wonderful experience. I remain immensely grateful*



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