



January to March 2020: Growing Minds is off to a flying start!

We successfully launched Growing Minds with a New Year's Day birth in Berinsfield. By the end of March, **75 children** – 44 babies and 31 toddlers – had signed up for Growing Minds.

Progress



We are proud to present Growing Minds' first ever progress report, having launched successfully in Littlemore and Berinsfield at the start of 2020.

Our partners reported a really positive reception from families to the project. The partnership in each area designed its own information packs for families, which are given out on sign-up. Children have received up to three books in their personal Imagination Library collection – including the Peter Rabbit introductory book. Peep groups have started in each area, engaging between six and 10 children in sessions. Initial support and guidance has been given to all families through Home-Start and the Berin Centre, and ongoing in-home support was due to start in

April. In advance of the launch, 15 local professionals from a range of organisations were trained in the Peep Learning Together Programme, aimed at promoting the Home Learning Environment. Bespoke training on how to access Growing Minds was also delivered to Health Visitors and Birth Registrars. On 17th March the COVID-19 social distancing measures began to impact upon Growing Minds' uptake and delivery.

Evaluation

In partnership with Oxford University, Oxford Brookes and qualitative evaluation consultants we planned to deliver various impact measurements this year. The table below shows the starting dates for these. These are subject to change given current circumstances, but give a picture of the stages of evaluation.

2020 evaluation milestones

- Q1 (Jan–Mar): Convene impact meetings + collect uptake data
- Q2 (Apr–Jun): Establish baseline data (2 yr-olds) + collect self-assessment data
- Q3 (Jul–Sep): Collect case study data
- Q4 (Oct–Dec): Evaluate qualitative data + collect baseline school readiness data

GROWING MINDS IN ACTION

Case example: A mum and her baby met the Health Visitor, who told her about Growing Minds. She was referred to the Social Prescriber who helped her to engage with Growing Minds. She signed up that same week, attending the Berin Centre directly. Confidence and adult literacy were a challenge – overcome by good partnership working.

The Growing Minds Partnership:

The Berin Centre, John Henry Newman Academy, Abbey Woods Academy, Oxfordshire Health Trust, Oxfordshire Birth Registration Service, Peep, Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, Home-Start Oxford, Oxfordshire Community Foundation



Governance and structure

- **Monthly Partnership Meetings:** Bring together partners in the project areas, forming the operational-level oversight of the project.
- **Quarterly Steering Group Meetings:** Engage the partnership at a strategic level, focusing on collaboration, governance and oversight.
- **Quarterly Impact and Evaluation group:** Engages around evaluation; insight is fed into the partnership.

Learning

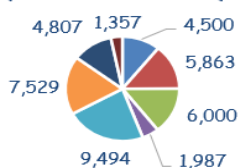
We've learned:

- 1) To get all our sign-up information up front, and then get on with developing the relationship with families.
- 2) Parents sometimes felt more confident engaging in a new format of group (i.e. Peep) when this was pinned to an activity that they were familiar with (in this case a 'Stay and Play' format), so we have run the Peep sessions through an existing Stay and Play session.

Deliverables and funding

We are on track with our expenditure of **£41,536** for the first quarter of Growing Minds.

Quarter 1 Costs (£)



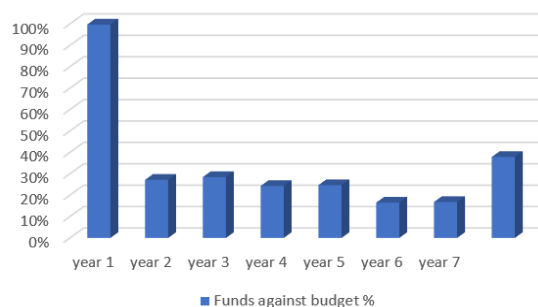
- Peep training for staff
- Set-Up Costs e.g. legal advice, policy development
- Governance and fundraising
- Monthly books
- Individual family support and resources
- Hub support and Peep Learning Together groups
- Project co-ordination
- Evaluation and data collection

Here's what we've done so far:

- Launched Growing Minds alongside our network of local delivery partners!
- Provided direct support and home-learning guidance to 35 families
- Launched weekly Peep group sessions in Littlemore and Berinsfield
- Sent 42 families their first books; the next delivery is due soon
- Coordinated monthly multi-agency partnership meetings in localities.

We are so grateful for those who have helped secure the funds needed to deliver year 1, and continue to look for like-minded philanthropists to secure the project's long-term future.

Growing Minds Funds Committed



GROWING MINDS IN ACTION

"Already Growing Minds has brought in a wider diversity of families to the centre."

*Growing Minds Practitioner
- Berinsfield*

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