

Intensive Support Service An Overview and Case Study

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Presentation Overview

- Family Caring in Ireland
- Intensive Support: A New Way of Working
- The Need for *Earlier*, Early Intervention: A Case Study
- The Issues Emerging

Family Caring in Ireland The Big Picture

500,000+



1 in 8 are family carers

61% are women

Young Carers
10-18yrs



67,000



19 MILLION HOURS

Unpaid care provided each week

2030

1 in 5 people will be a family carer

92,000

Receive Carer's Allowance
That is only ONE in FOUR full time carers
*approx.

52%

Juggle paid work with care
1 in 9 (240,000+ people)

Save State
€20BN



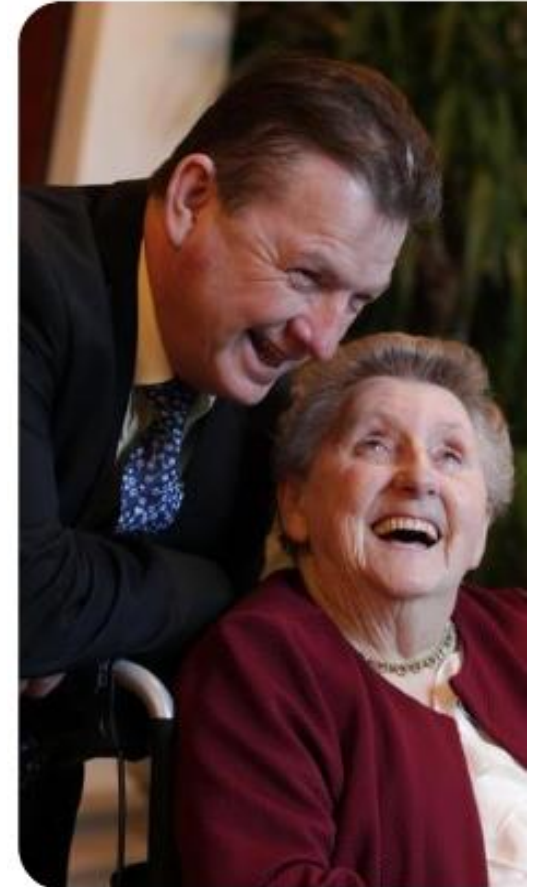
Intensive Support Services: A New Way of Working

- Established in September 2022
- Built on the Carer Guarantee – adopted by Government in 2021
- Support for Carers experiencing the most complex caring situations
- A Transdisciplinary Team – comprising support specialists in Children/Young Adults with Additional Needs, Older People, Mental Health and Addictions
- National Coverage
- Adding value to our Emergency Respite, Emergency Card and National Counselling Service

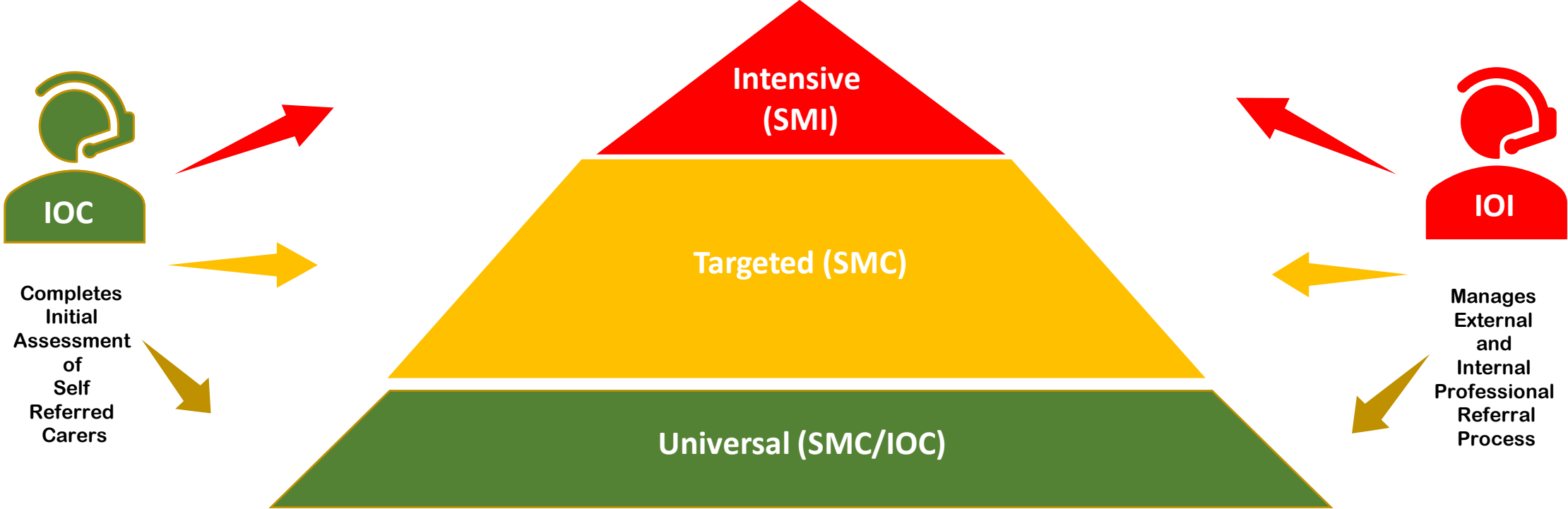


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The Public Health Framework



Carer Centred Support Delivery Model: An Integrated Public Health Approach



Intensive Supports in Numbers: Jan/Mar 2023

- 1,124 Carer Needs Assessments Completed
- 389 assessed as requiring Intensive Support
- 202 Carers Commenced Intensive Support
- 1,000 Intensive Support Interventions Delivered
- 1,270 Counselling Hours Delivered
- 110 Emergency Respite Referrals Received – 50 Delivered

The Need for “*Earlier*” Early Intervention:

A Case Study from our Intensive Support Service

Carer Presentation at Initial Contact

- Age 31
- Parent to 2
- 1 child (aged 3) with significant additional needs
- Presenting with Mental Health Issues
- Assessed as Experiencing High Levels of Carer Burden
- Stress and Anxiety
- Feelings of hopelessness and fear of the unknown
- Adjusting constantly to behaviors that challenge
- Guilt
- Low Self esteem
- Social Isolation
- No time for self
- Exhaustion/ Lack of sleep
- Pressure due to unstable financial situation
- Worry over housing accommodation stability/ mortgages

Son’s Additional Needs Diagnosis

- Private Assessment Diagnosis: Autism, Sensory Processing Disorder, Pathological Demand Avoidance , Anxiety Disorder

Cared for Challenges:

- Preschool refusal
- Behaviors that challenge towards sibling and parents
- Refusal to eat most foods

Situation in Relation to Intervention

- On wait list for HSE Assessment of Need which is currently 18months, at present waiting 9 months
- Carer has been advised a 2 year wait list for Interventions after Assessment of Need
- Currently paying privately for Play Therapy and Occupational therapy

Family Carers Ireland Support Interventions

- Dedicated Support Manager
- Identification of Priority Carer Support Needs
- Psychotherapeutic Support
- Group Based Training in Dealing with Challenging Behaviours
- Individualised Training and Mentoring in Implementing Strategies to Deal with Challenging Behaviours
- Referral for Emergency Respite

Issues for Policy Makers to Consider

- Earlier, early Interventions
- The source of most distress for family carers coming to us as carers of Children with Additional Needs is the waiting list for assessment followed by a long wait time for therapeutic Interventions
- Family carers need more support in the early stages post assessment/ diagnosis so they can understand their child's behavior
- It is imperative that children get the support they need ,early, and often in the years where it makes the biggest difference to prevent embedded behavior
- Crippling cost of private assessments and therapies to the family and why carers need to go down this path
- Poor communication between services and family carers
- Increased resources in the education system to prevent school exclusion
- Integration of services - schools and other services for example
- Access to Home care and respite services



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Thank You.

Any Questions?

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