

## Barnardo's (PATHS Programme)

Developed in the United States, PATHS is a universal programme for improving the social and emotional skills of children. With funding support from Atlantic Philanthropies this area-based project was initially managed in Northern Ireland by an umbrella organisation called Together4All (T4A). Following six months of planning and research, an adapted version of PATHS was implemented in local primary schools across the Brownlow and Craigavon area.

Despite early successes, T4A were unable to obtain further government support or funding for it to continue. The management of PATHS was transferred to Barnardo's, the UK's largest children's charity. Along with additional funding from the BIG Lottery, this has secured the continuation of PATHS across Northern Ireland.



### Impacts and Successes

The effectiveness of Barnardo's in supporting the **delivery of PATHS** in 52 primary schools in Northern Ireland and 47 primary schools across sites in London, South Wales and Scotland

The **merger with Barnardo's** has placed PATHS within a successful UK-wide children's charity creating a more **resilient** and **potentially sustainable framework** to support future growth

PATHS in NI has been to **increase pro-social behaviour** (empathy, co-operation, helping) and to improve ability to recognise emotions, respond appropriately and **engage in social problem-solving**

PATHS pupils in P6/7 across the Brownlow and Craigavon area were **more likely to spend time with, and not taunt, people who were different**

### Sustainable Practices

Now that Atlantic's operations in NI have been wound up, maintaining the impact of the PATHS programme and developing it further will require a new form of collective leadership. This should involve input from both the public and third sectors. It will also include:

- **Building the Barnardo's merger**  
Given the UK-wide presence of Barnardo's, the merger has created greater potential for replication, up-scaling and sustainability across a range of different areas. This UK presence will be important, especially when the resources from Atlantic in NI have ended.
- **Enhancing UK-wide replication**  
Despite assistance from external

funding sources such as the BIG Lottery grant, Barnardo's need to develop sustainable strategy for the PATHS programme by replicating it and up-scaling across the UK. The role of the Social Enterprise Manager (which has already been funded) and Barnardo's Business Development Unit will be important to achieving this.

Partnership with a well-resourced and focused independent funder, like The Atlantic Philanthropies, can help achieve significant social change

**Barnardo's Northern Ireland**  
+44 (0)28 9067 2366  
[www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)