

# Protective Factors

## Protective Factors

These may include:

### Individual:

- Resilient temperament
- Autonomy, comprising a sense of identity, achievement, self awareness and independence
- Self-motivation

### Community:

- Active involvement in school and community life; access to high quality early years education
- Supportive relationships outside the home
- Pro-social peer group

### Family:

- Strong and affectionate relationships with both parents, family members, other significant adults
- Recognition and praise: including parental interest, and involvement in education
- Stability and security in family life

# Risk Factors

## Risk Factors

Evidence-based analysis of risk factors established the following groupings, around the individual, the family and the community:

### Individual:

- Troublesome behaviour in school/home, difficult behaviour
- Friends condoning or involved in risky behaviour
- Low educational achievement
- Truancy/exclusion
- Homelessness
- Bullying
- High rates of attendance in accident and emergency units
- Alcohol and drug use
- Poor nutrition
- Smoking
- Depression
- Low self-esteem
- Specific developmental delays
- Learning difficulty and/or disability
- Speech/communication problems
- Physical illness especially chronic and/or neurological

### Family:

- Lax parental supervision
- Parental (or other family member) abuse and/or neglect of child(ren), inconsistent and violent discipline
- Domestic violence, family conflict
- Paternal criminal convictions
- Children have poor or no relationship with one or both parents
- Having refugee status
- Being socially isolated

### Community:

- Inadequate housing
- Disadvantaged neighbourhood, indicated by a significant proportion of:
  - Lone parent families
  - Workless households
  - Low income families
  - Transient families

In addition, practice suggests that the following groups of children and young people may be at risk of negative outcomes:

- Children and young people missing from school roll
- Families with low basic skills
- Disabled children and young people
- Children and young people who are caring for another family member
- Looked after children and young people
- Those with parents, carers or other family member misusing drugs or alcohol
- Asylum seeker children and young people