

NORTHERN IRELAND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2021-2024



**Working together – to improve outcomes for
children and young people through integrated
planning and commissioning**



FOREWORD

Welcome to the NI Children and Young People's Plan (Plan) for 2021-24. This Plan is developed on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and outlines the priorities which will drive the work of agencies supporting early intervention for children, young people and their families over the next three years. Pivotal to developing this Plan has been the consultation with children, young people, parents, service providers and partners at regional and local level.



This Plan captures the voices of children and young people, and reflects our commitment to the United Nations Convention on Children's Rights. Our collective goal is to continue to improve our approach to engaging children and young people in the development of services, and to increase children and young people's direct participation in decision-making which directly affects them and their families.

The World Health Organisation declared the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak as a pandemic on 12 March 2020. Northern Ireland went into full lockdown on 23 March 2020. We are all aware of the impact that the pandemic has had on everyone's lives up until now, and as this becomes more fully understood, it is likely that the social and economic landscape for early intervention for children's services will continue to change over the next three years. It is therefore important to ensure that the Plan is dynamic in nature and that priorities and performance framework take account of emerging needs of children and families.

The partnership is fully committed to delivering on this plan, and I thank all of those who contributed to the planning process, and for the ongoing commitment to working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children and young people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Devlin'.

**Shane Devlin, CYPSP Chair
(Sept 2019 – Feb 2022)**



CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|------|
| INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| STRATEGIC CONTEXT | 4 |
| POLICY CONTEXT AND STRATEGIC INTERFACES | 5 |
| DEFINITIONS | 6 |
| CYPSP PLANNING STRUCTURE | 7 |
| OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK | 8 |
| IMPACT OF COVID-19 | 9 |
| CONSULTATION PROCESS | 10 |
| CONSULTATION OUTCOMES AND IDENTIFICATION OF KEY PRIORITIES | 12 |
| THE PLAN | 17 |
| REGIONAL ACTION PLAN | 18 |
| OUTCOMES GROUPS PLANS | 27 |
| LOCALITY PLANNING GROUPS PLANS | 32 |
| APPENDICES: APPENDIX 1 – CHILDREN’S SERVICE PLANNING GUIDANCE AIMS | 33 |
| APPENDIX 2 – CYPSP MEMBERSHIP | 34 |
| APPENDIX 3 – CHILDREN’S SERVICES PLANNING TEAM | 35 |



INTRODUCTION

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) is a multiagency strategic partnership, consisting of senior leaders of all key agencies across statutory, voluntary and community sectors that have responsibility for improving outcomes for all children and young people in Northern Ireland.

The CYPSP has been developed and supported by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB)¹ to support the Children's Services Planning process.

What is the NI Children and Young People's Plan?

The NI Children and Young People's Plan (Plan) is a strategy document which is produced every three years by the HSCB on behalf of the CYPSP.

The purpose of this Plan is to:

- Set out a shared vision and strategic direction to guide the work of the NI CYPSP for the period 2021-24;
- Describe the outcomes we aim to achieve together and the improvements we need to deliver; and
- Set out an integrated approach to implementing our strategy and delivering those improvements.



This Plan builds on the achievements from the previous Plan and is designed to co-ordinate our work, drive improvement and provide a consistency in approaches to delivering services. This Plan is a dynamic plan and will be reviewed to keep it up to date during its life (2021-24), based on: what people tell us, regional priorities and local and national evidence. It is designed to be an accessible and useful document which will drive practice and service development. As well as setting out the strategic priorities and actions for improving children and young people's wellbeing over the next three years, this document includes the associated plans for each of the five CYPSP Multi Agency Outcomes Groups, and includes links to the detailed action plans developed at locality level.

¹ From 1 April 2022 the HSCB will no longer be in operation and will be replaced by Department of Health's (DoH) Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) – Amendments to documents will be made to reflect this change



STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Legislative Context

The Plan is a statutory requirement of the **The Children (1995 Order) (Amendment) (Children's Services Planning) Order 1998²**.

The aims of Children's Services Planning are included in the **Children's Services Planning Guidance 1998 (DHSS/DENI/NIO) [Appendix 1]**, which outlines the requirement for the promotion of integrated provision of services.....through the promotion and establishment of a high standard of coordination and collaboration between HSCB, HSC Trusts and between social care and health services.

Our duty to work together is further strengthened in **The Children's Services Co-Operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015³** (the Act) which states in 2 (1) that:

“Every Children's Authority must, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its children functions, co-operate with other children's authorities and with other children's services providers in the exercise of those functions”.

The Act also creates an enabling power to share resources and pool funds and states that a Children's Authority may *“(a) provide staff, goods services, accommodation or other resources to another children's authority: (b) make contributions to a fund out of which relevant payments may be made.”*

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

The Act (2015) brings into domestic legislation a requirement to have regard to the relevant provisions of the UNCRC when determining the meaning of the term 'well-being' as it relates to children and young people, and states that one of the factors contributing to well-being of children and young people is living in a society which respects their rights.

² The Children Order (1995) Amendment ,Children Services Planning Order (NI) 1998

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/1998/261/made>

³ The Children's Services Co-Operation Act (NI) 2015 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2015/10/contents/enacted>



POLICY CONTEXT AND STRATEGIC INTERFACES

In order to avoid duplication of effort and to best harness the potential of integrated planning, we are committed to:

1. ensuring alignment with, and contribution to strategic policy and decision making which impacts on Children's Service Planning in NI; and
2. ensuring alignment and interface with other relevant multi agency planning processes.

This Plan therefore takes account of a number of key strategic drivers. These include but are not restricted to:

- Northern Ireland Programme for Government (PfG) (2021);
- Executive Children and Young People's Strategy (2019-30);
- Making Life Better: A Whole System Strategic Framework for Public Health in NI ;
- Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together (2016);
- The Mental Capacity Act (NI) 2016;
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (SEND Act);
- Education Authority's Special Educational Needs Strategic Development Programme (EA SEND SDP);
- NI Executive Child Poverty Strategy 2016-22;
- Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland's Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy 2018-22;
- Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services Framework (HSC, 2020);
- Children & Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing in Education Framework (2021);
- Draft HSC Regional Framework for Disability Services (2021);
- The early years planning process and specifically the Article 20 Reviews⁴ undertaken by Childcare Partnerships;
- Community Planning Processes with Local Government;
- Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs);
- Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young Peoples (NICCY) Report "Too Little, Too Late" (March 2020);
- Ending Homelessness Together, The NI Housing Executive's Homelessness Strategy 2022-27;
- Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Action Plan 2021-22 (DoH)
- Cross Departmental Covid 19 Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan (DoH 2020);
- The Infant Mental Health Framework for Northern Ireland (DoH, 2016)
- Future Planning Model, Integrated Care System NI Draft Framework (DoH, 2021);
- Recommendations from the Northern Ireland Family Support Hubs Interim Review Report (SCIE, Nov 2021).

⁴ Article 20 The Children (NI) Order 1995, 'Review of provision for day care, Childminding, etc'



DEFINITIONS

The Plan focusses on promoting prevention and early intervention, and will work to the following definition:

“Early Intervention is intervening early and as soon as possible to tackle problems emerging for children, young people and their families or with a population at risk of developing problems. Early intervention may occur at any point of a child or young person’s life.”⁵

The regional Plan will also work to the following definition of Family Support:

“Family Support is both a style of work and a set of activities that reinforce positive informal social networks through integrated programmes. These programmes contain statutory, voluntary, community and private services and are generally provided to families within their own homes and communities. The primary focus of these services is on early intervention, aiming to promote and protect health, wellbeing and rights of all children, young people and their families. At the same time, particular attention is given to those who are vulnerable or at risk.”⁶



⁵ Grasping the Nettle: Early Intervention for Children, Families and Communities' C4EO, p4.

⁶ Understanding Family Support; Policy Practice and Theory', Canavan, Pinkerton, Dolan, 2016, p20.



CYPSP PLANNING STRUCTURE



The current agreed structure comprises:

- One regional CYPSP;
- Regional Subgroups / Task and Finish Groups focusing on cross-cutting early intervention issues for children and young people;
- Five Outcomes Groups (OGs) focusing on the need in specific geographic areas. The purpose of OGs is to act as coordination and planning space for early intervention family support developments in their area;
- 25 Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) focussing on need at local community level with a specific role in engaging communities in discussion about how organisations can work together to more effectively address need at a local level;
- 29 Family Support Hubs (FSHs) offering coordination of and signposting to early intervention services; and linking with OGs and LPGs to report on local priorities and contribute to the identification of unmet need.



Outcome Groups:

- Belfast
- Northern
- Southern
- South Eastern
- Western



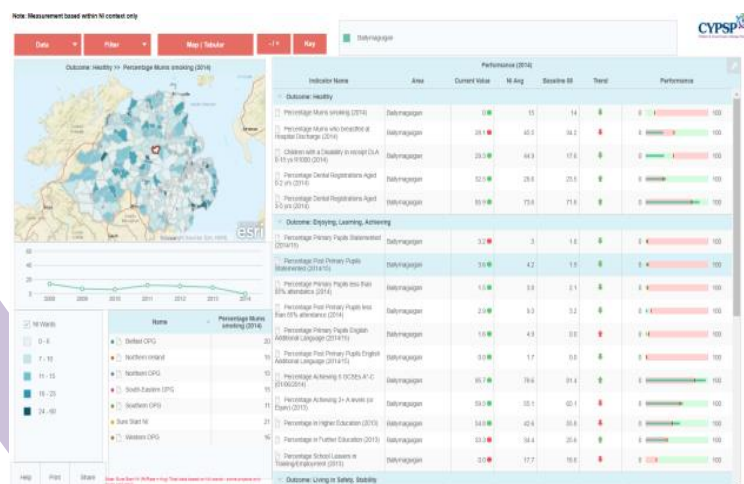
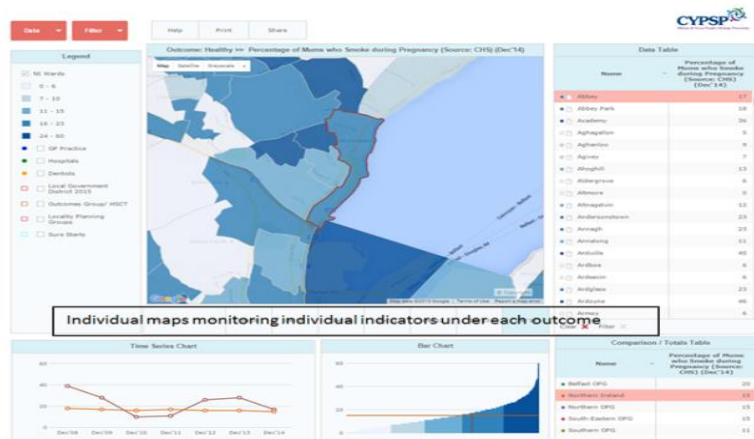
OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK

The CYPSP will continue its commitment to the use of Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) as a framework for the:

- Identification of measurable population and performance indicators to inform multi-agency integrated planning;
- Maintenance of child rights indicators / [UNCRC monitoring](#) onto the CYPSP system;
- Provision of support in the production of OBA monitoring tools and Report Cards, for CYPSP's OGs, LPGs and FSHs.

The interactive mapping system links high level outcomes to different geographical levels including Trust / OGs and Council areas.

<http://maps.cypsp.hscni.net/>



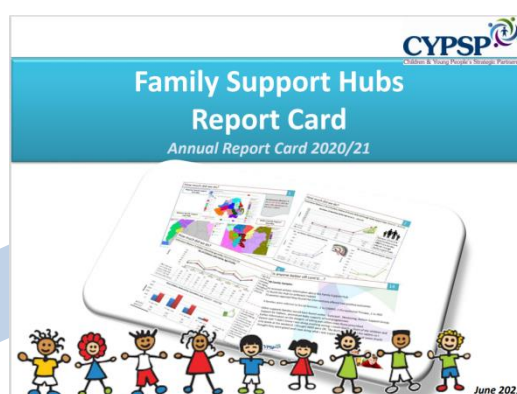
The interactive performance system provides the performance against the high level outcomes based on the population accountability of the outcomes area measured against a baseline.

<http://maps.cypsp.hscni.net/performance-profile/>

OBA Report Cards

These provide information in respect of:

- How much did we do? (Quantity of work)
- How well did we do it? (Quality of work)
- Is anyone better off? (Impact of work)



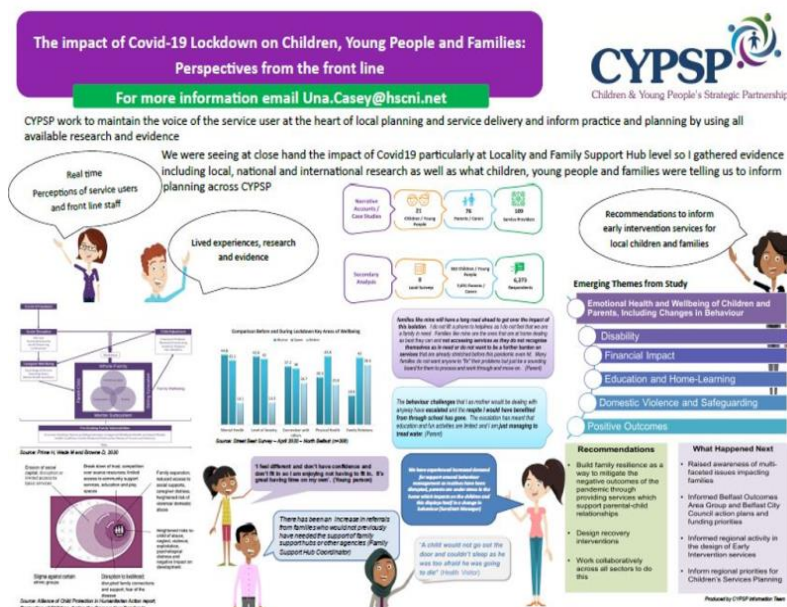
IMPACT OF COVID-19

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic reset the context for supporting children, young people and families in NI. CYPSP partner agencies contributed to the gathering and analysis of evidence to facilitate learning, with a particular focus on lived experiences, and perceptions from frontline practitioners at locality level.

The CYPSP Annual Report reflected that 2020-21 was a significantly challenging year for children, young people and families, and that creative and resilient efforts were made to respond to new and emerging needs as a result of the impact of COVID-19, through the development of priorities for 2020-21.

Impact of COVID-19: The key areas of concern:

- Increase in food and fuel poverty;
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing needs of children and families;
- Concerns around supporting children's education;
- Support for children with additional support needs;
- Challenges of engaging with children and families through virtual platforms.



In recognition that the full impact of the crisis is expected to be substantial, these priorities remain central in respect of this planning cycle.

"Children are not the 'faces' of this pandemic. But they risk being among its most-affected victims." – World Health Organization⁷

⁷ World Health Organization. WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 - 11 March 2020



CONSULTATION PROCESS

The identification of the key priorities for the 2021-24 Plan is informed by the analysis of evidence derived from:

Consultation and Feedback from Children and Young People

The views of children and young people are fundamental to the development of this Plan in the acknowledgement that children and young people have a right to express their views, and to influence how adults deliver services for them in the areas where they live and learn.

The views of children and young people were sought through:

- Consultation workshops with six Youth Groups across the Southern Area comprising of 180 children and young people aged from 11-19 years old, to ascertain their views on emotional wellbeing and education needs.
- The use of a Children and Young People's and Parents Survey, in the Northern area to ascertain their views of their health and wellbeing.



In recognition of the importance of ensuring a regionally inclusive approach to consultation and co-production with children and young people, we have established the Regional Children and Young People's (CYP) Participation Network which builds on our relationships with existing agencies, including youth advocacy groups, young carers and ethnic minority and migrant children and young people from across NI. The purpose of this collaborative Network is to ensure that children and young people continue to inform regional priorities throughout the life of the current Plan.

The work of the CYP Participation Network will also be aligned with the measurement of UNCRC child rights indicators which are monitored and maintained by the CYPSP Information Team.

Parental Participation

The provision of a Parental Participation Service for CYPSP is contracted directly by the HSCB, to enable the perspective of parents to influence the activities of the CYPSP and its working groups, by developing and promoting effective ways of engaging parents in the planning process. As part of this process, a series of surveys with parents were



undertaken to ascertain parental views on the needs of children, young people and families, and training of service providers was delivered to develop and support CYPSP member organisations to continually improve their own co-production practice with parents.

Consultation and Feedback from Multi-Agency LPGs

Feedback from LPGs across the region has contributed to the identification of the key priorities for the 2021-24 Plan. This is as a result of the ongoing identification of emerging issues and needs at each locality meeting. This information, collated on a quarterly basis into a reporting framework, highlighted those issues that are most common across all of the groups.

Learning and Evidence from the FSH Network

Quarterly monitoring activity from FSHs highlighted the main areas of intervention across the region. The analysis of this information is supported by an annual Core Member's Survey. In April 2020 a rapid response survey of FSH members was undertaken to contribute to the measurement of the impact of the pandemic on service delivery.

Analysis of Population and Performance Data

The CYPSP Outcomes Measurement Framework and resources highlighted on page 8, have been used to inform the planning activities of OGs and LPGs.

Examples of baseline data in respect of the five OG areas is included in each of the One Page Plans on pages 26-30.

The Partnership has also been informed by NI population accountability data linked to the NI Children's Strategy Outcomes.



CONSULTATION OUTCOMES AND IDENTIFICATION OF KEY PRIORITIES

Identification of Key Priorities

The consultation process identified four inter-related priority areas which have informed the development of outcomes based planning, across the CYPSP infrastructure. These priorities are:

- Support for children's mental health and emotional wellbeing;
- Support to children whose wellbeing is being affected by disruption to their education;
- Early intervention support for children with disabilities and their families;
- Early intervention support to tackle the impact of poverty on the wellbeing of children, young people, and their families which includes housing stress or homelessness.



Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

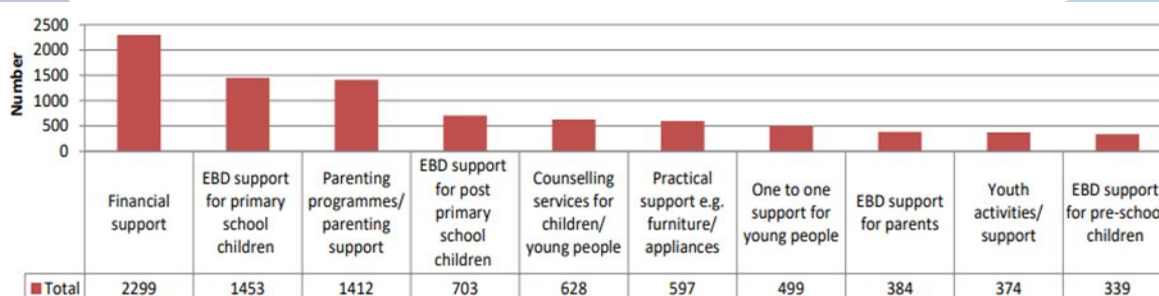
Feedback from partner agencies, LPGs and the FSH Network, have all identified the need to support and improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of all children, young people and families through trauma informed approaches.

"As the lockdown progressed..... young people absorbed their parent's anxieties."
(LPG Service Provider)

"Several mothers have told us that their children have the fear of going outside and meeting other children." (LPG Service Provider)

The inclusion of infant mental health and strengthening parent-infant relationships at the earliest point was also identified as a key area of need.

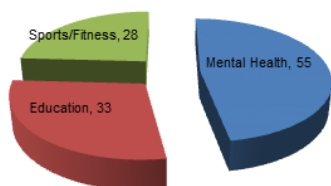
Historically, the highest reason for referral to FSHs has been requests for support to manage emotional / behavioural difficulties of primary school age children. As a result of the pandemic, financial support was identified as the top reason for referral in 2020-21, however request for emotional behavioural support formed the basis for the majority of other referrals.



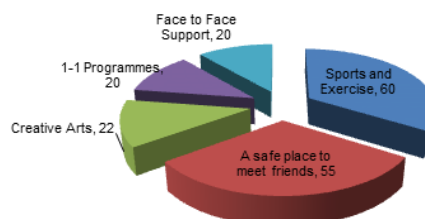
What children and young people are telling us:

There were strong views from a wide range of children and young people that the Plan should focus on ensuring the provision of accessible resources and services which focus on contributing to positive mental health and emotional wellbeing as well as providing accessible signposting information to mental health services.

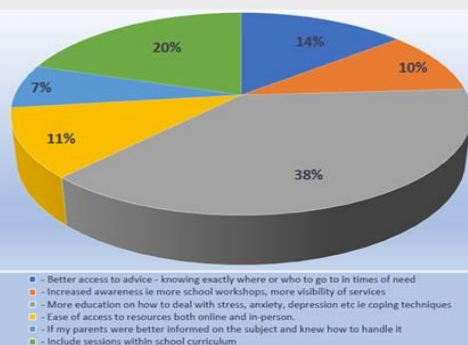
Percentage of Top 3 Health and Wellbeing Needs according to Children and Young People in NHSC Area (n=127 - young people could select more than one response)



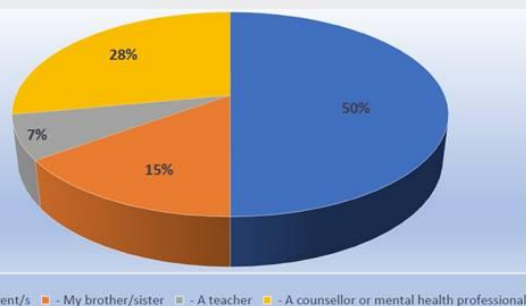
Percentage Responses to the Questions How Would You Like These to be Met (n=127, respondents could select more than one answer)



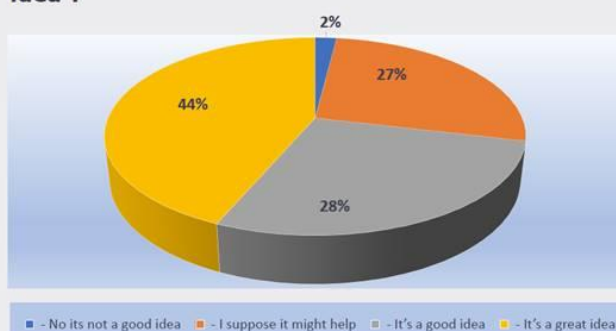
How could things be made better for you in terms of Emotional Mental Health & Wellbeing?



If you had to choose someone to talk to about your Emotional Health & Wellbeing who would you prefer?



Do you think an easy-to-access, Mental Health webpage for children and young people is a good idea ?



"I feel things are improving a bit in being able to talk to others about how we feel but still stigma, fear of being accused of attention seeking or other people have more serious problems than yours and they don't want to talk about how you are feeling."



"The language used on current mental health materials is not appropriate and young people get very overwhelmed by it, materials need to be less clinical and more personal/informal."

"Should use young people to promote services as young people feel more comfortable whenever they know friends or people they know are involved i.e. Ambassadors for the service."

What parents are telling us:

The Parental Participation Survey undertaken by Parenting NI on behalf of CYPSP highlighted that 59% of the parents surveyed had worries about their children, and 23% were concerned about their mental health.



59% of parents said they had concerns/worries about their child/ren?



"Services need to be local, regular and accessible."

"I have lost my network from work which has also impacted on my children."

Education

The promotion of service and planning which enables young people to achieve the best start in life through education remains a key objective of Children's Services Planning. The impact of COVID-19 on the provision of education and to the routines and structures that school provide are clear. All LPGs identified a need to strengthen education support including managing anxiety / stress as a result of disrupted routines and boundaries.

"Any support on this matter would be greatly appreciated" (Teacher)

Consultation feedback also references the need to provide specific support for ethnic minority and migrant children and young people within education settings.



"I think a homework club/tutoring service outside the school would be extremely valuable for BAME young people. The school could work with the EA youth service - but this would probably be best delivered as an after-school service through EA and the youth centre. This would be vital work for raising aspirations and supporting students."

Feedback from partner agencies has also highlighted lack of digital access as a barrier to attainment. This is an issue which has been accelerated by the move to online service delivery models during the lockdown period, with schools and statutory, voluntary and community sector agencies expressing concerns about the impact of digital exclusion in more deprived households.

"The 4th highest reason for referral to family support hubs is parents requiring support for their post primary children, this was mostly around accessing online learning or navigating a new system and issues with online learning resources."

What young people are telling us:

"The uncertainty of school work, work keeps changing, topics that were scrapped are now coming back and topics that have been taught are now being scrapped"

"After returning to school with the constant assessment after assessment, school has taken over our whole lives. We have the same uncertainty as last year with results and after a whole year to put a plan in place to not have a repeat of last years' mess it has become clear that no plan has been put in place and this is severely damaging young people's mental health."

Children with Disabilities

Consultation feedback identified that the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on children with disabilities. The routines and daily lives of these children and young people was seriously impacted by the lockdown, and parents requested assistance with support in managing associated behaviours and anxieties and frustrations with growing waiting lists for assessments and services.

"The unprecedented crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic is having a profound effect on autistic young people."



What parents are telling us:

Parents of children with disabilities conveyed concerns about the impact of changes to routine and the resultant effects on children's behaviours and emotional wellbeing.

"There is a clear connection between health and education and there is additional stress on parents who are trying to communicate information between the two systems."

"Parents need a single point of contact in respect of information on local services and how to access them, they need someone they can talk to."

"Parents need to be involved in pre-consultation – not just asked their views when plans have already been agreed."

"We need support from time of birth, need diagnosis at birth as there is no signposting for before diagnosis."

The Impact of Poverty

Consultation feedback highlights the impact of poverty, on children's health and wellbeing which has been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic. The Government measures which were required to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 resulted in significant economic uncertainty for many children and families. Feedback from LPGs and FSHs described a rising number of families without food and a significant increase in the number of families being referred to foodbanks, as well as an increase in referrals from families who would not previously have needed the support of FSHs or other agencies. This increase in the number of referrals to FSHs for food, fuel and financial assistance, was compounded by existing high levels of poverty in NI, and is by far the greatest area of need identified.

Statistics, published on 5 August 2021, for the period April 2019 to March 2020 illustrate that around 313,000 (17%) people in Northern Ireland lived in relative income poverty (before housing costs) including approximately 100,000 (22%) children, and that 13% of people (approx. 241,000), live in absolute poverty before housing costs.⁸ Consultees also acknowledged the impact of housing stress and homelessness mental health, education and poverty.

"Requests for financial assistance and for food, represents the highest number of referrals to Family Support Hubs. (2020/21)"

⁸ 2020/21 report on the Northern Ireland Executive's Child Poverty Strategy - [2020/21 report on the Northern Ireland Executive's Child Poverty Strategy - Social Care Online \(scie-socialcareonline.org.uk\)](https://socialcareonline.org.uk/2020/21-report-on-the-northern-ireland-executive-s-child-poverty-strategy)



THE PLAN

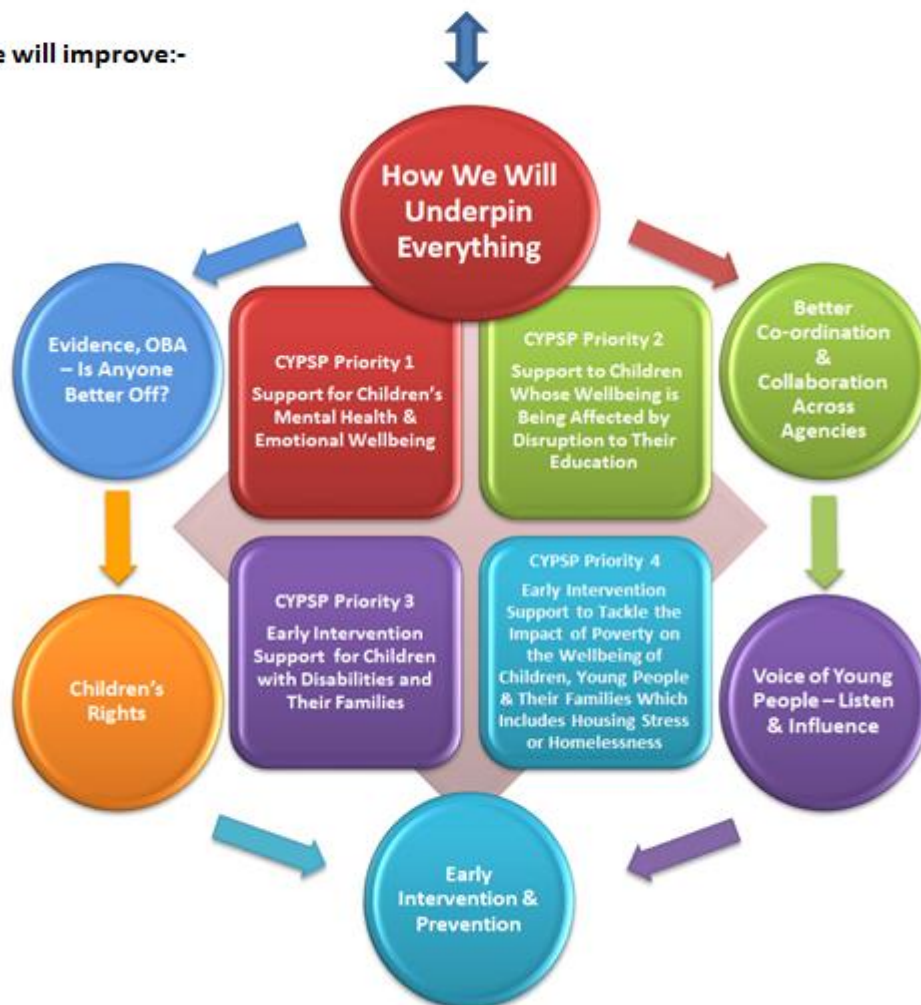
OUR VISION



What we will work towards:-



Together we will improve:-



REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

| CYPSP Priority / Outcome: What will we do? | How will we do it? | How will we know we have made a difference? |
|--|---|---|
| Maintain the voice of the child as central to the planning process | Develop and support the Regional CYP Participation Network to contribute to annual planning and review of strategic priorities and use a range of approaches to reach the diversity of children, young people and families, including surveys focus groups and workshops. | Co-produced CYPSP Annual Report. |
| | Support OGs, LPGs and Regional Subgroups to engage with children and families as central to their work, through a range of approaches including surveys, focus groups and workshops. | Children and young people have contributed positively to OGs and LPGs, and views sought through a range of methods. |
| | Co-produce and maintain the CYPSP Youth Wellness Web. | Increased reach of Youth Wellness Web and annual survey feedback. |
| Maintain the rights of the child as central to the Children Services Planning process | UNCRC child rights monitoring updated on CYPSP website and shared with relevant partners / groups in relation to poor performing indicators. | Increase in performance evidenced in Annual Reports 2022- 24. |



COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

| CYPSP Priority / Outcome: What will we do? | How will we do it? | How will we know we have made a difference? |
|---|--|--|
| Clarify strategic objectives in relation to services | Ensure alignment with Executive Programme for Government and the Department for Education (DE) Children and Young People's Plan. | Evidence of strategic synergy in monitoring and reporting processes in respect of the Regional Children and Young People's Strategy and the NI Children and Young People's Plan. |
| Promote integrated provision of service and effective use of available resources | Refresh OG and Regional Subgroup membership to ensure cross sectoral participation to establish clearer needs led flexibility and integrated working. | Evidence of consistent cross sectoral commitment and representation at OGs reflected in annual membership / attendance audit and reflected in CYPSP Annual Reports 2022-24. |
| | Develop stronger connections between the Business Plans and processes of CYPSP and those statutory partners whose primary focus is not early intervention. | Inclusion / reference to the NI Children and Young People's Plan in all partner agencies Business Plans by 2024 to include clarification of interfaces. |
| Ensure consistency of approach to planning | Use CYPSP data to monitor indicators annually and disseminate to partners, and OGs to assist with annual review of the Children's Service Plan. | Evidence of use of baseline data used to inform planning. Evidence of Indicators moving in right direction. |



COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

| CYPSP Priority / Outcome: What will we do? | How will we do it? | How will we know we have made a difference? |
|--|--|---|
| Promote and establish high standard of coordination and collaboration between CYPSP partner agencies | Ensure consistency of commitment and representation in line with agreed CYPSP governance arrangements through annual review of CYPSP membership and attendance to ensure stronger links, and appropriate representation. | Evidence of consistent cross sectoral commitment and representation at CYPSP reflected in annual membership / attendance audit and reflected in CYPSP Annual Reports 2022-24. |
| | Showcase and celebrate achievements of partnership working through CYPSP, through regular dissemination of information on achievements / positive outcomes / innovative practice across strategic Departments. | Published evidence of one showcase event per quarterly Partnership meeting. |
| Facilitate joint commissioning by agencies when it is seen as appropriate to meet the needs of children | Consider where budget pressures may be alleviated through service alignment, and potential reduction in duplication. | By 2024 will evidence joint commissioning in 2-3 Partnership areas. |



TARGET ACTIONS

| CYPSP Priority / Outcome | What will we do? | How will we do it? | How will we know if we have made a difference? |
|--|--|--|---|
| Support for children's mental health & emotional wellbeing (MH&EWB) | Provide effective and timely access to information re early intervention mental health and emotional wellbeing services for children, young people and families. | Publication and distribution of relevant information via existing E-zines, social media, LPG Newsletters, FSH Newsletter. | Annual monitoring data re reach of media activities. |
| | Identify and support children and young people's mental health ambassadors. | Continued support to maintain and review the CYPSP Youth Wellness Web. | Feedback and consultation from CYP Participation Network. |
| | Build capacity across sectors to prevent direction to statutory / third level Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS). | Identify key contacts for low / medium responses to children and young people's mental health and wellbeing across the OG and FSH network. | Reduction of referrals into statutory organisations. |
| | Support the regional implementation of the Youth Justice Agency (YJA) / CAMHS Pilot. | Reconstitute the YJA / Preventing Offending CYPSP Reference Group. | Evidence of cross sectoral contribution to early intervention services in respect of preventing offending measured through contribution to CYPSP quarterly meetings and recorded in CYPSP Annual Reports 2022-24. |
| | Review and share learning and good practice in respect of early intervention activity at locality levels, and identify those issues which will benefit from a regional approach, and strengthen links to Regional Emotional Health and Wellbeing Frameworks. | Refreshed membership of the Regional CYPSP MH&EWB Subgroup to provide regional oversight and report to CYPSP. | Evidence of improved support for children and young people in respect of MH&EWB measured through survey feedback and children and young people's focus groups. |



TARGET ACTIONS

| CYPSP Priority / Outcome | What will we do? | How will we do it? | How will we know if we have made a difference? |
|---|---|---|--|
| Support to children whose wellbeing is affected by disruption to their education | Strengthen connection between CYPSP partners and the Education Authority's (EA) Special Educational Needs (SEN) Transformation Project, and ensure representation from across agencies. | Utilise CYPSP representation on SEN Steering Group to maintain links and promote knowledge exchange. Establish SEN Task and Finish Group to include representation from DE / EA / voluntary / community / youth sector partners. | Evidence of cross sectoral contribution to SEN Implementation Plan including views of families, children and young people demonstrated through education themed Partnership meeting. |
| | Increase engagement with parents as supporters in education settings. | Develop parental navigator roles through the CYPSP Parental Participation Project. | Improved parental participation evidenced through monitoring returns from Parental Participation Project. |
| | Strengthen links between schools and FSHs. | Targeted dissemination of FSHs information / access for schools. | Increase in uptake of services between education and other support settings against 2021 baseline. |



TARGET ACTIONS

| CYPSP Priority / Outcome | What will we do? | How will we do it? | How will we know if we have made a difference? |
|---|--|---|---|
| Early intervention support for children with disabilities (CwD) and their families | Contribute to the delivery of practical and accessible early intervention services to families and CwD. | Support multi-agency planning and service delivery via OGs, LPGs and FSHs. | Annual outcomes monitoring and measurement of performance by OG area - OBA Report Cards. |
| | Contribute to cross-departmental / agency working to progress the removal of barriers for these children and their families to participate and socialise within society. | Progress the inclusive play agenda ('Let me Play' – Inclusive Play Park Study 2022 by Playboard NI & Mae Murray Foundation) | Evidence of action against the recommendations referenced through CYPSP Annual Reports. |
| | Identify and promote awareness of unmet need at early intervention level. | Translate unmet need data into coherent strategy to inform existing cross sectoral policy / frameworks. | Evidenced in FSH Report Cards / LPG Report Cards 2022-24. |
| | Support the regional implementation of the messages and recommendations from the 'Our Journey Through Disability' Report. | Refresh membership of the Regional CwD Subgroup in 2022, to provide regional oversight of locality based work in respect of the recommendations from 'Our Journey Through Disability' and report progress to Partnership. | Evidence of cross sectoral contribution to early intervention services for CwD including views of families, children and young people demonstrated through disability themed CYPSP Partnership meeting. |



TARGET ACTIONS

| CYPSP Priority / Outcome | What will we do? | How will we do it? | How will we know if we have made a difference? |
|---|---|--|---|
| Intervention support to tackle the impact of poverty on the wellbeing of children, young people and their families which includes housing stress or homelessness | Continue to raise the visibility of statutory, community and voluntary support services / currently available to parents and professionals. | Develop asset mapping of cross sectoral support services available for families and children. | Evidence of a comprehensive understanding of services available across sectors to inform appropriate dissemination to families and children via CYPSP and Partner agencies. |
| | | Publication and distribution of relevant and information on resources available via existing E-zines, social media, LPG Newsletters, FSH Newsletter and CYPSP Website. | Evidence of increased reach through quarterly monitoring activity. |
| | | Strengthen links with Community Planning. | Evidence of community planning representation across whole CYPSP infrastructure. |
| | | Strengthen links the NI Housing Executive (NIHE). | Evidence of NIHE representation across CYPSP infrastructure. |



TARGET ACTIONS

| CYPSP Priority / Outcome | What will we do? | How will we do it? | How will we know if we have made a difference? |
|---|---|--|--|
| Continued.... Intervention support to tackle the impact of poverty on the wellbeing of children, young people and their families which includes housing stress or homelessness | Contribute to processes that seek to promote legislative changes to meaningfully tackle child poverty rates regionally. | Ensure alignment with the outworking's of the NI Child Poverty Strategy 2016-22. | Evidence of Partnership contribution to the NI Child Poverty Strategy reported through CYPSP Annual Reports 2022-24. |
| | | Link in partner organisations with advocacy forums within the statutory, community & voluntary sector. | Evidence of improved use of advocacy forums reported through CYPSP Annual Reports 2022-24. |
| | | Update and promote Family Support NI Website to include information from all partner organisations. | Improved reach of Family Support NI through quarterly monitoring activity. |
| | Support and increase families' capacity to move out of poverty and maintain that position. | Provision of assistance, advice and service delivery via FSHs. | Evidenced via quarterly and annual monitoring of FSHs. |



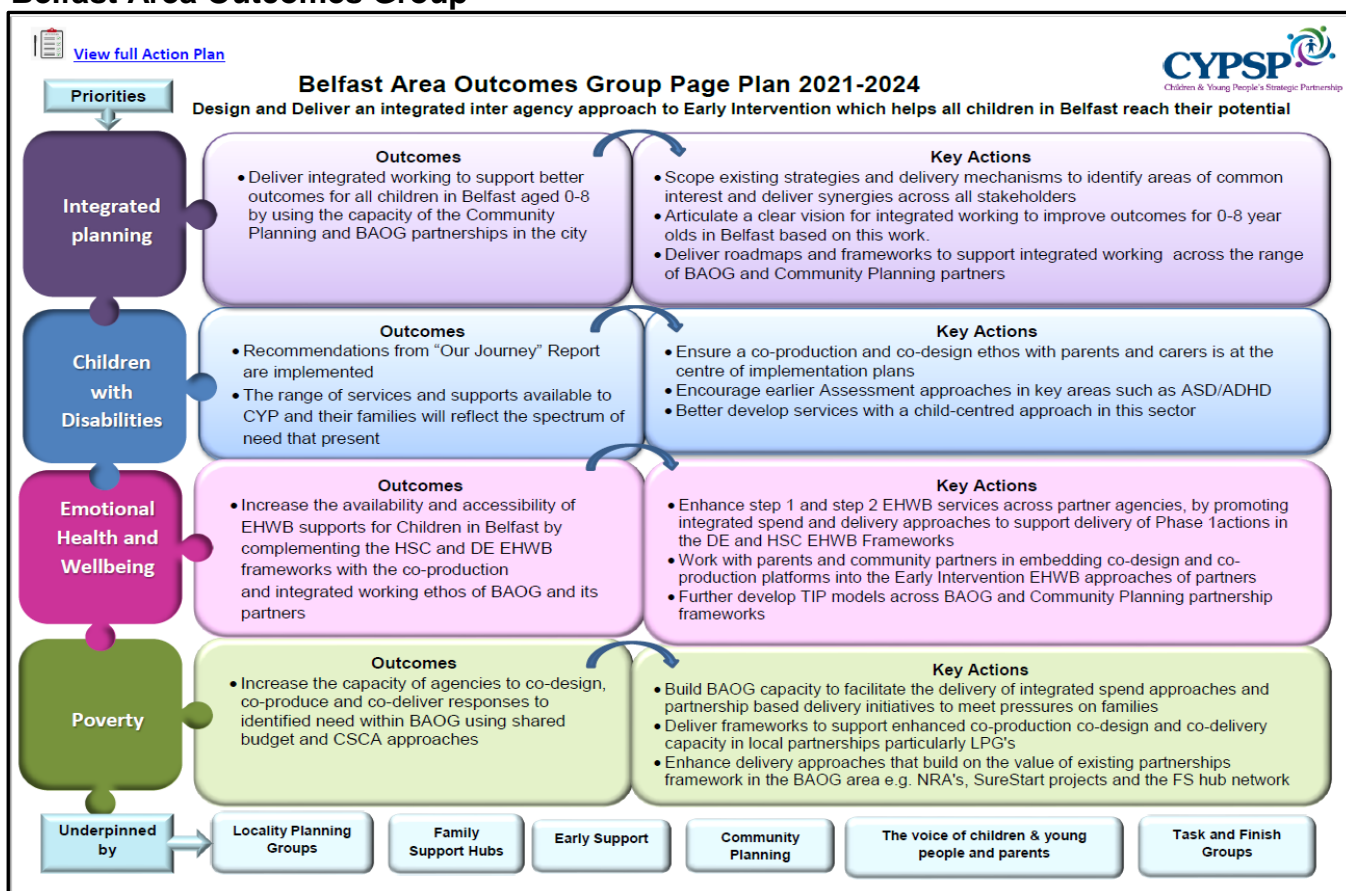
TARGET ACTIONS

| CYPSP Priority / Outcome | What will we do? | How will we do it? | How will we know if we have made a difference? |
|---|---|---|--|
| Provide early intervention support for ethnic minority and migrant children, young people and families | Strengthen links with agencies and representatives of the ethnic minority and migrant population to identify supports and gaps in early intervention service provision. | Support the regional implementation of the recommendations from the Newcomer Needs Assessment on Access to Services undertaken in the Southern Area. | Evidence of increased access to services in the Southern Area by 2023. |
| | | Strengthen existing link with PHA Ethnic Minority & Migrant (EMM) Advisory Group through its establishment as a CYPSP Reference Group. | Evidence of greater reciprocity across the EMM Advisory Group and CYPSP agenda, reported through CYPSP Annual Reports 2022-24. |
| | | Ensure ethnic minority representation through CYP Partnership Network and CYPSP Parental Participation Project. | Feedback and consultation from CYP Participation Network. Improved parental participation evidenced through monitoring returns from Parental Participation Project. |
| | | Implement the recommendation from SCIE review of FSHs in respect of increasing capacity of service provision to ethnic minority and migrant families. | Evidence of increased access to Family Support Hubs by 2023, evidenced through monitoring data. |

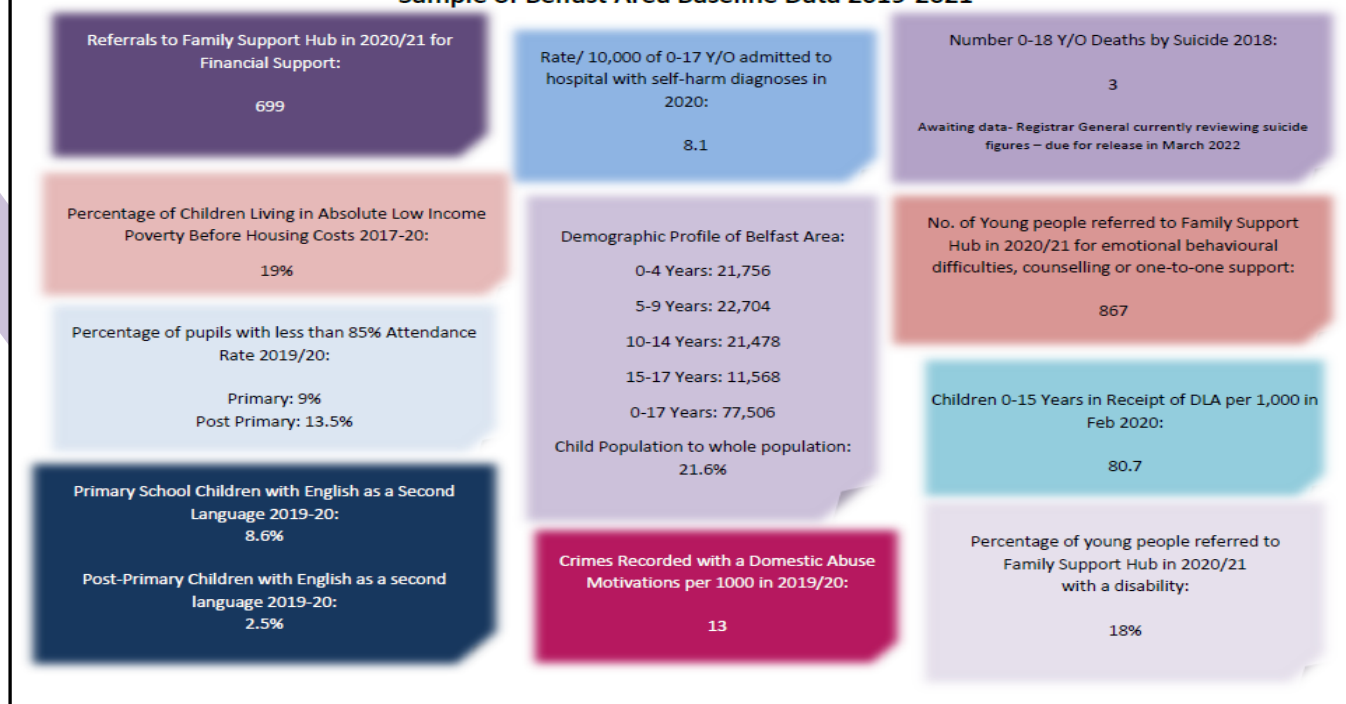


OUTCOMES GROUPS PLANS

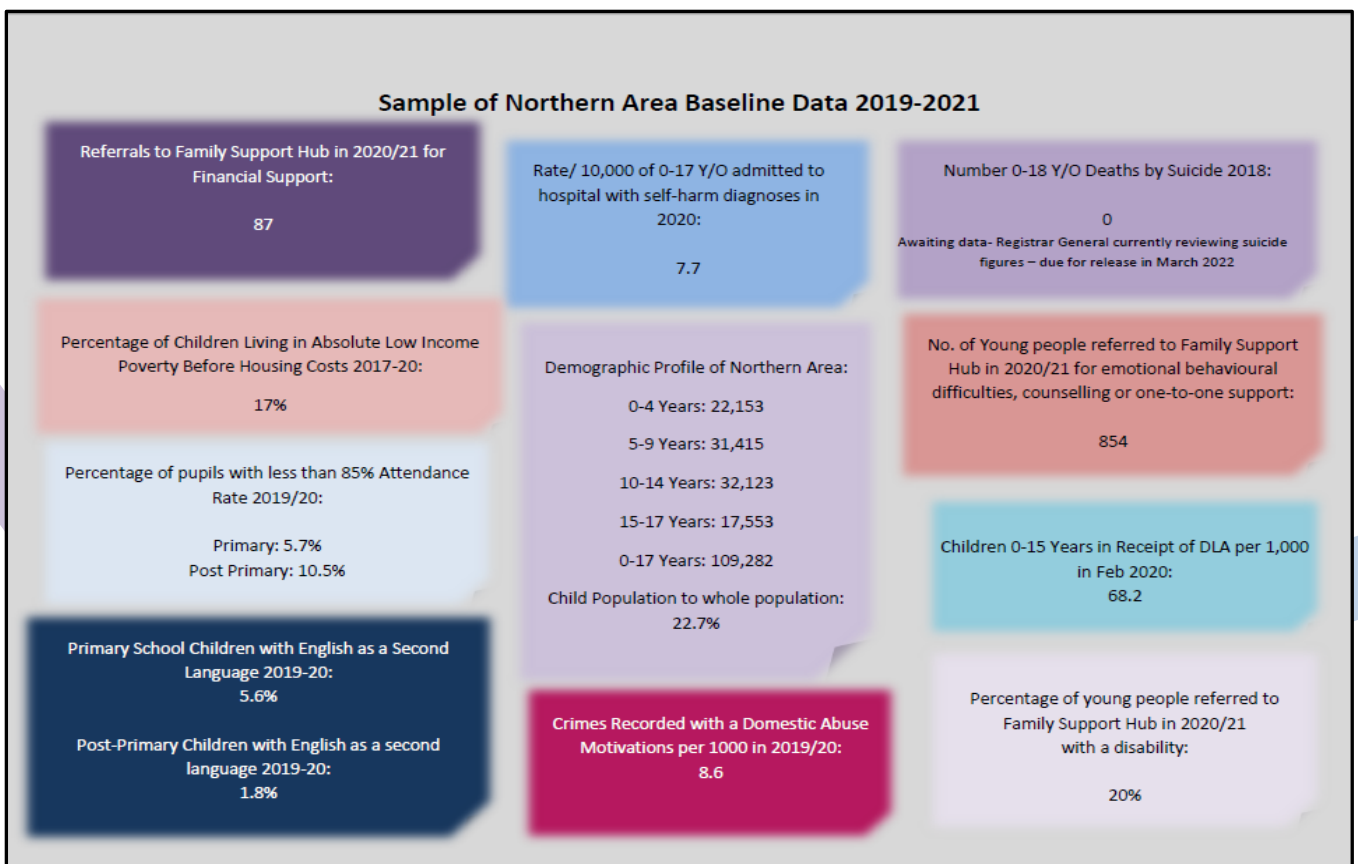
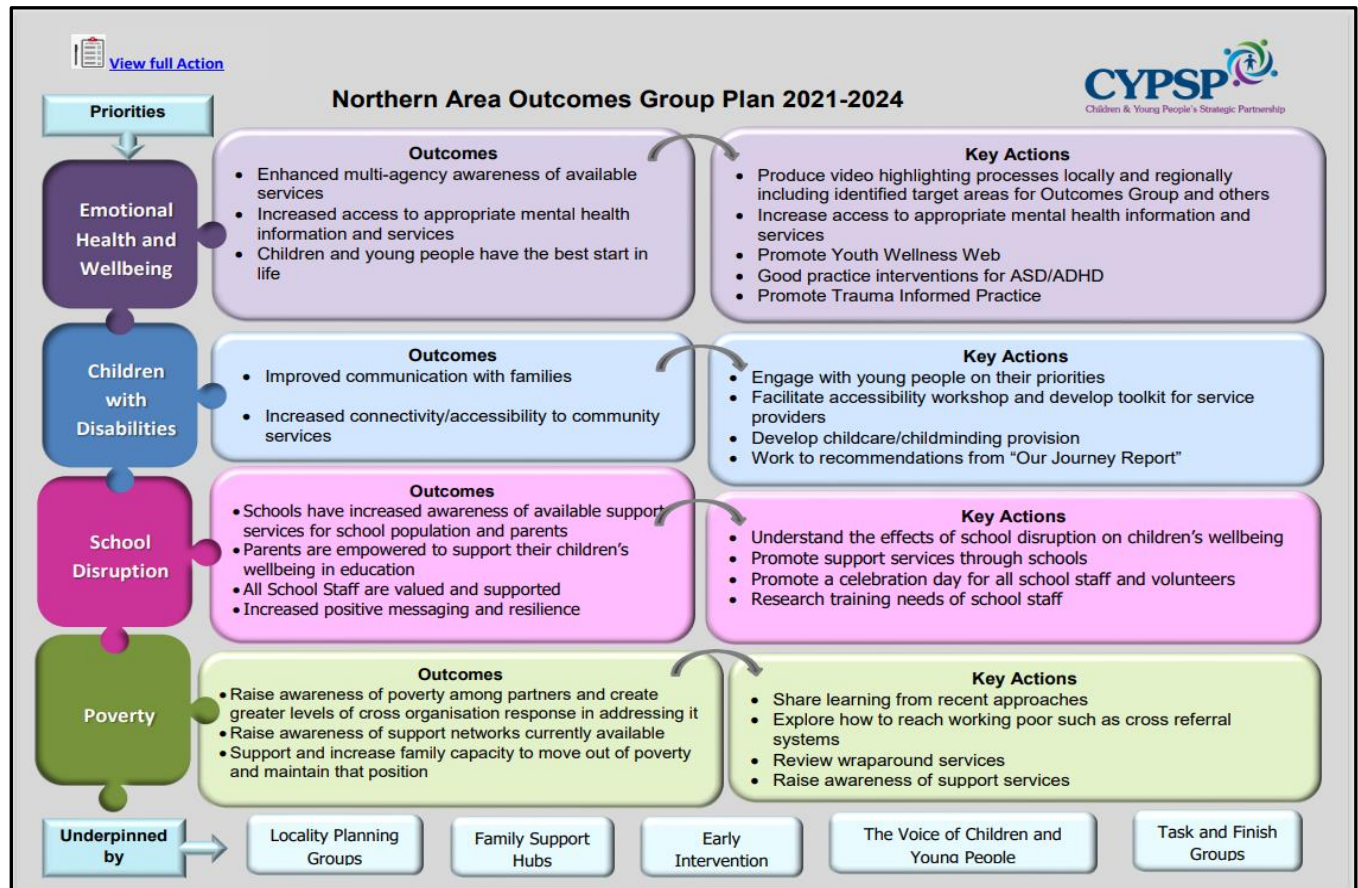
Belfast Area Outcomes Group



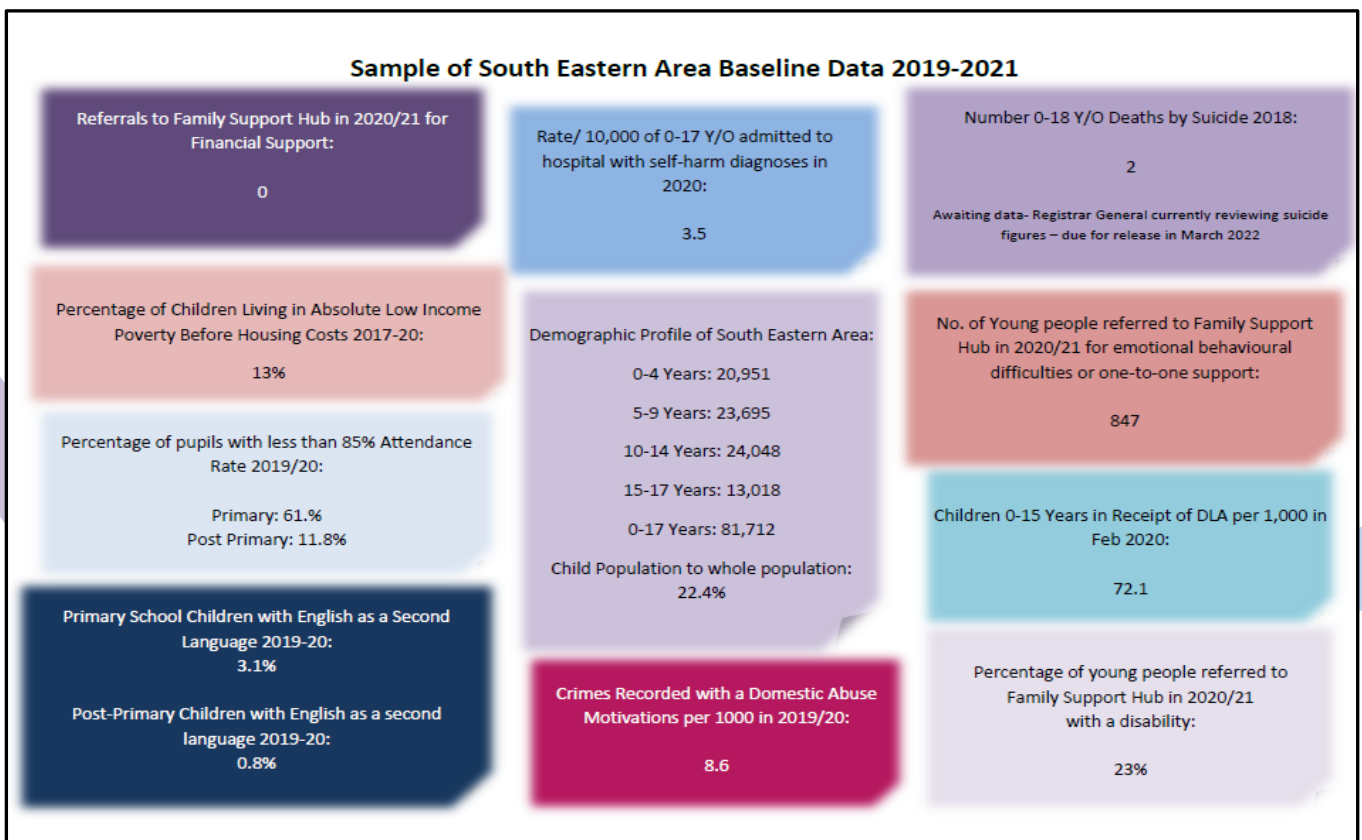
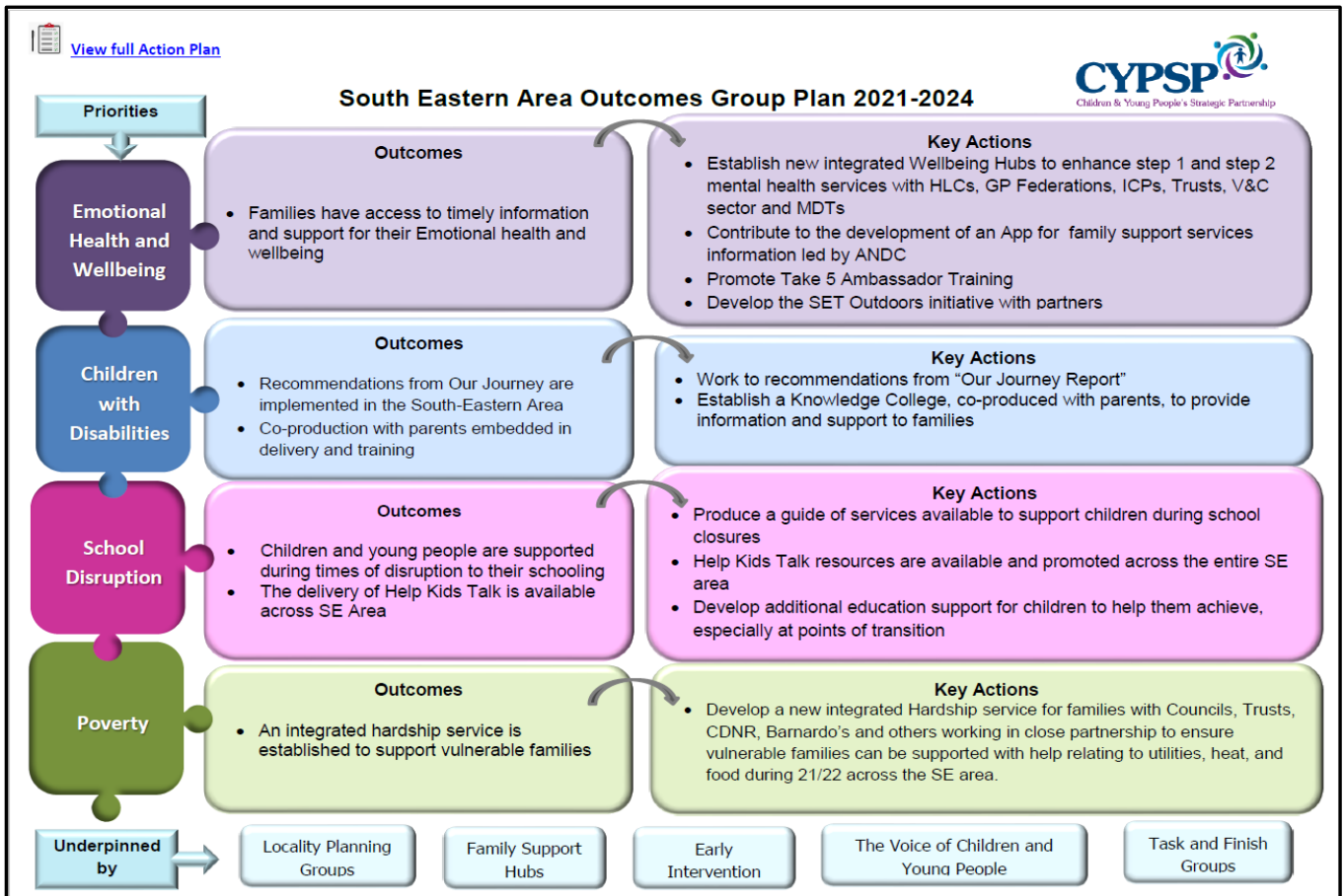
Sample of Belfast Area Baseline Data 2019-2021



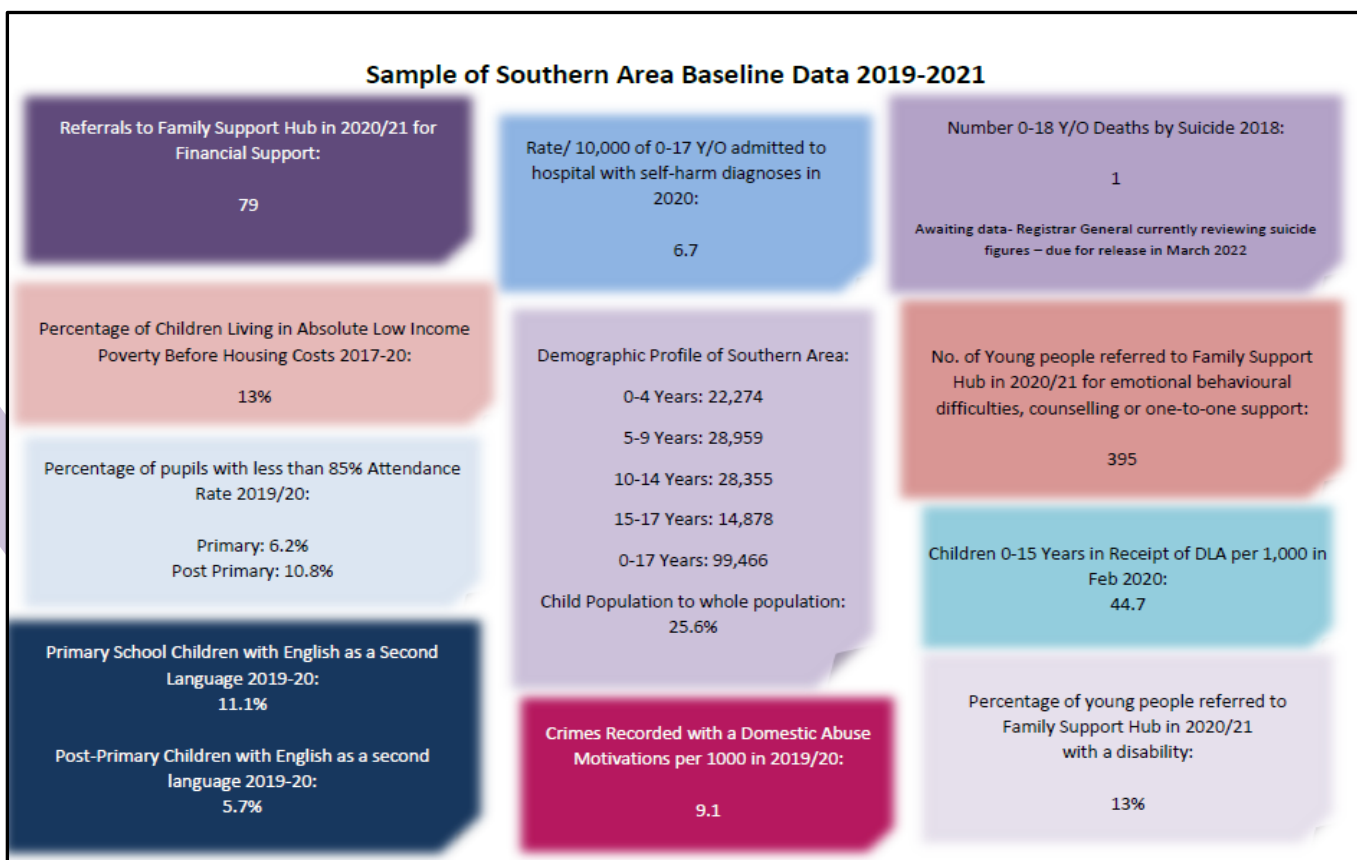
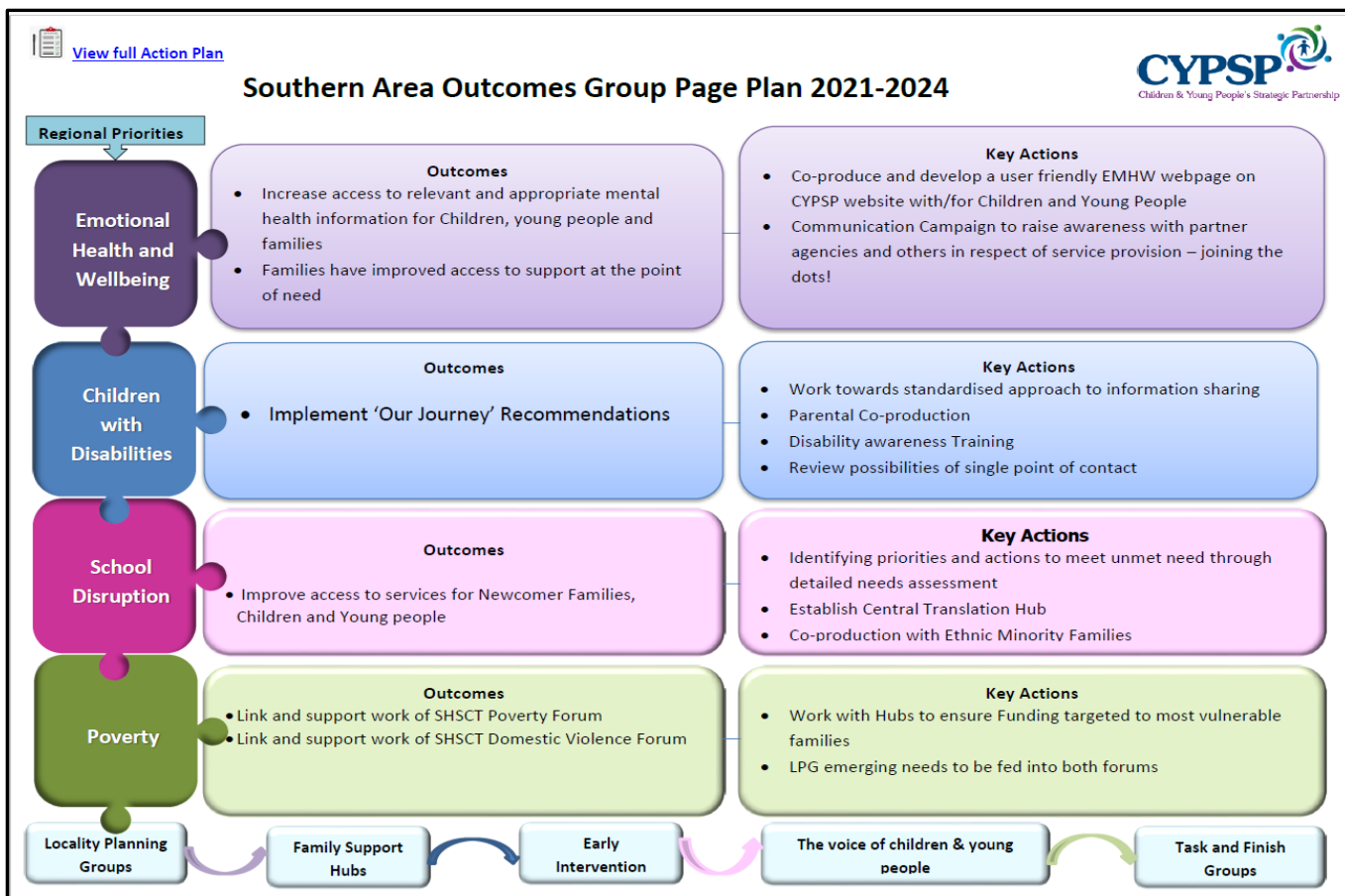
Northern Area Outcomes Group



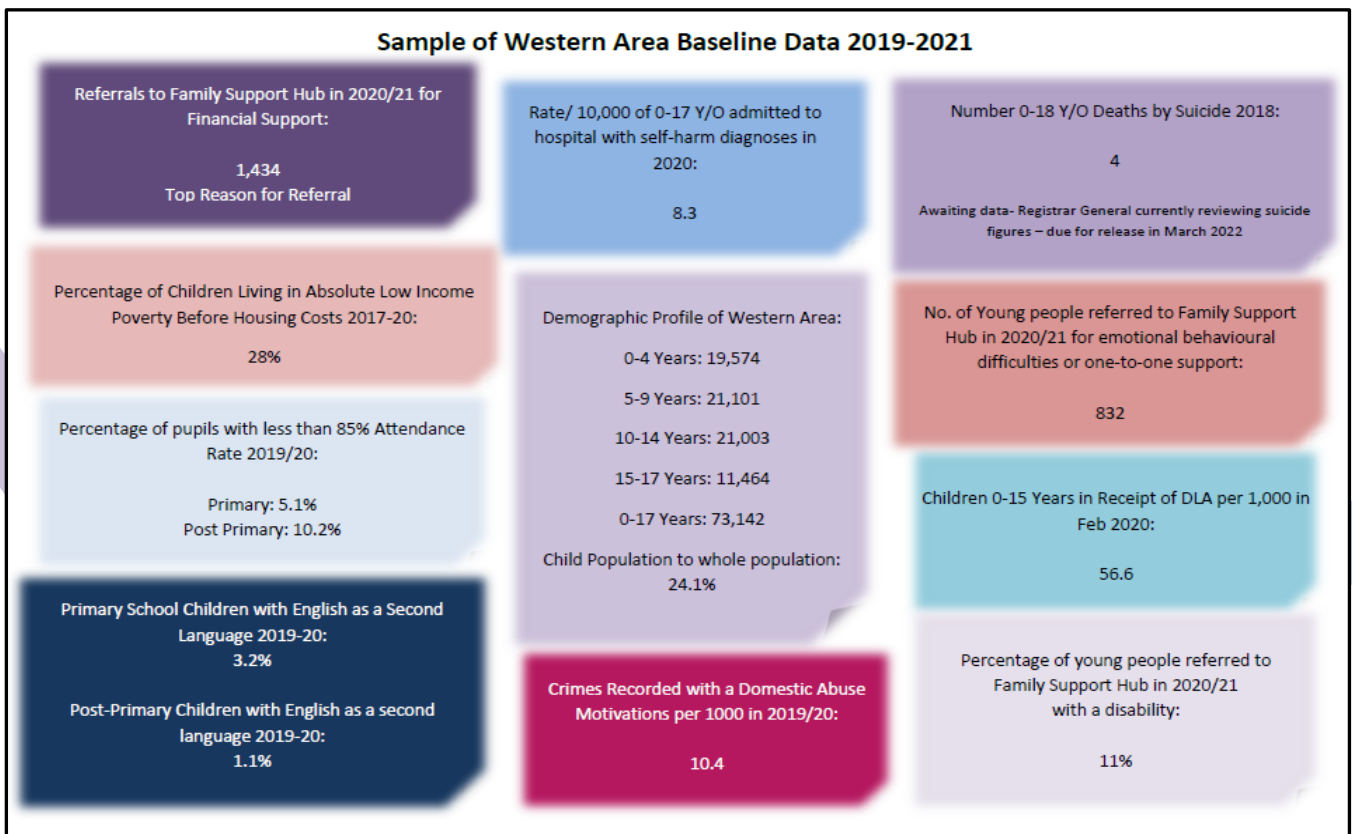
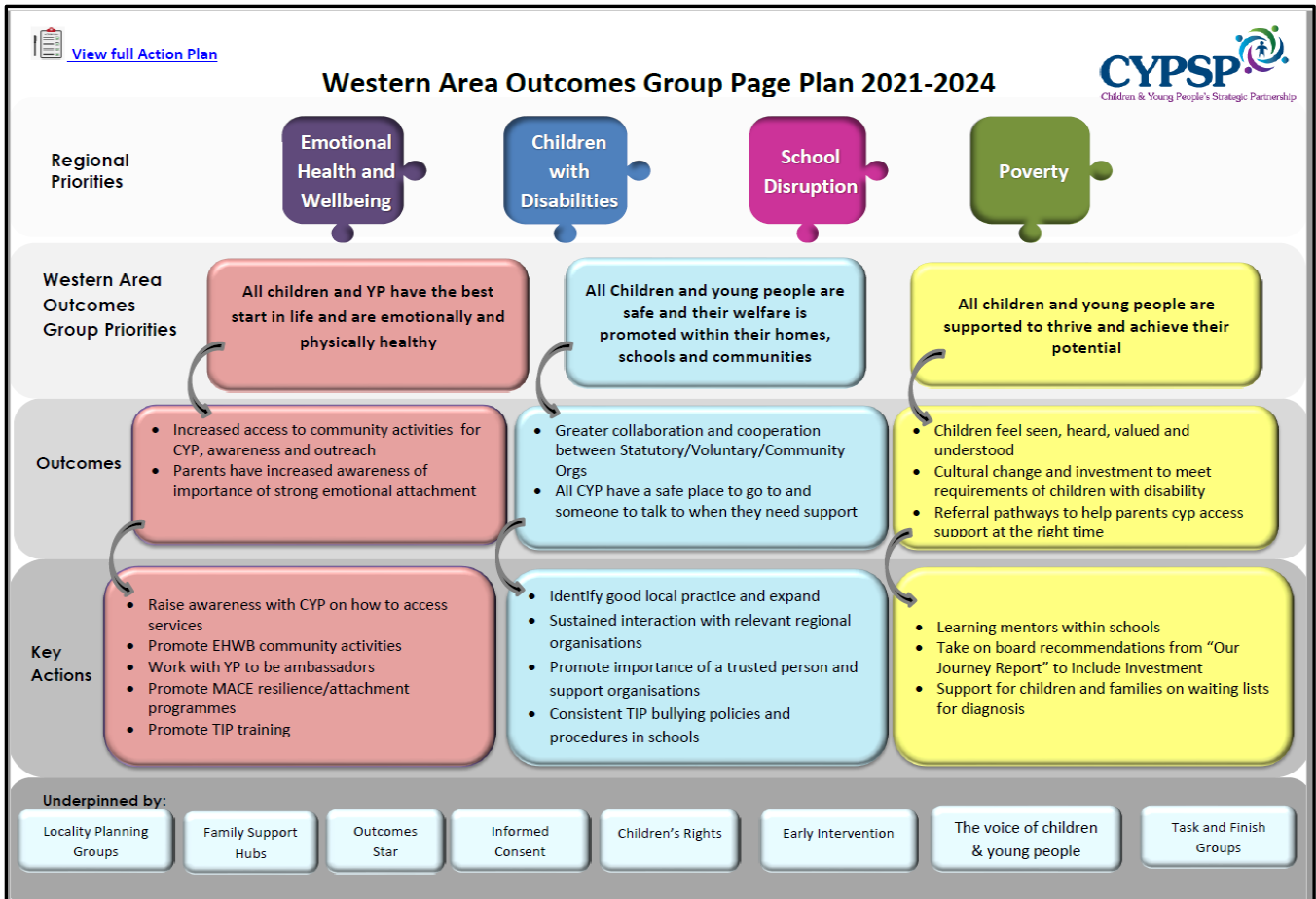
South Eastern Area Outcomes Group



Southern Area Outcomes Group



Western Area Outcomes Group



LOCALITY PLANNING GROUPS PLANS

The CYPSP Annual Report 2020-21 showcases examples of excellent joint working at locality level through the LPGs.

Locality planning activity will continue to focus on developing and supporting multi-agency early intervention approaches, at a local level, through engagement with the community to:

- Develop shared information, knowledge base and expertise about the local area;
- Identify opportunities to improve outcomes for children and young people by working better together.



The 25 LPGs across the region have developed individualised Action Plans which are linked to the actions identified in OG Plans, and the baseline data which identifies localised priorities. These Action Plans are live and will be updated throughout the planning cycle. <http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/locality-planning-groups/>.



Children's Services Planning Guidance Aims

- Promote the welfare of children;
- Clarify strategic objectives in relation to services;
- Promote integrated provision of service and effective use of available resources;
- Ensure consistency of approach to planning;
- Promote and establish high standard of coordination and collaboration between HSCB and Trusts and between social care and health services;
- Facilitate joint commissioning by agencies when it is seen as appropriate to meet the needs of children.



| CYPSP MEMBERSHIP | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Statutory Sector | |
| Health & Social Care Board | Department of Education |
| Public Health Agency | Education Authority NI |
| Health & Social Care Trusts | Council for Catholic Maintained Schools |
| NI Housing Executive | SOLACE |
| Probation Board NI | Safeguarding Board NI |
| Police Service NI | Department of Communities |
| Youth Justice Agency | |
| Voluntary Sector | |
| Children in NI | Barnardo's |
| Action for Children | National Children's Bureau |
| Include Youth | Bytes Project |
| Action Mental Health | ASCERT |
| Community Sector | |
| Dry Arch Children's Centre | Bolster Community |
| Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group | Mae Murray Foundation |
| BAME Sector | |
| Wah Hep Chinese Community Association | |



| CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING TEAM | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Maxine Gibson | Children's Services Planning Professional Advisor |
| Bronwyn Campbell | Family Support Hub Regional Coordinator |
| Valerie Maxwell | Children's Services Planning Information Manager |
| Una Casey | Children's Services Planning Business Support |
| Sharon McMinn | Children's Services Planning Support Officer |
| Kori McLaughlin | Children's Services Planning Support Officer |
| Yvonne Neill | Children's Services Planning Information Officer |
| Maurice Leeson | Programme Manager Partnerships, Emotional Health and Wellbeing and CAMHS |

