

# NORTHERN IRELAND CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

2025-2028



Working together to achieve the best outcomes for children, young people and families

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#### **FOREWORD**



# AIDAN DAWSON Chief Executive Public Health Agency / CYPSP Chair

As Chair of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP / Partnership), I am pleased to introduce the new Children and Young People's Plan for 2025-2028 (Plan).

The CYPSP recognises that no one service works in isolation and to effectively meet needs we must continue to develop our partnership approach, across agencies and sectors with children, parents / primary care givers and families.

The CYPSP Pause and Reset Workshop held in 2023, provided an opportunity for partners to review the strategic role and function of CYPSP, to acknowledge good practice and to agree how we can continue to strengthen multi-agency collaboration. The actions agreed to strengthen our collaborative leadership and communication across the CYPSP network are incorporated in the new Plan as are the priority areas of need where we believe our collective efforts can add value to improving local outcomes for children young people and families.

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland have been central in helping shape this Plan, and we will continue to ensure service user involvement and consultation throughout the next three years.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the creation of the Plan and I look forward to working with you all to achieve our aims.





#### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan (Plan) for 2025-2028.

This Plan is developed on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP / 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 / primary care givers, 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, including those from vulnerable or

disadvantged groups 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.



This Plan builds on the achievements and learning from the previous Plan and is designed to co-ordinate our work, drive improvement and provide a consistency in approaches to delivering services.





#### **Our Purpose**

The Children and Young People's Plan is the core plan for the multi-agency delivery of early intervention social care services for children and families in Northern Ireland. The Plan is supported by a number of lower level plans which are in place across the five Outcomes Group areas, associated 25 Locality Planning Groups and the Prevention of Offending Subgroup.



This structure ensures that those plans contribute to the realisation of local outcomes while taking cognisance of regional priorities, outcomes and activities.

Detailed description of the CYPSP structure is available in Appendix 1 and our working definitions are in Appendix 2.

The purpose of the Plan is to:

Set out a shared vision and strategic direction to guide the work of the NI CYPSP for the period 2025-2028

Provide a planning framework agreed by all partner agencies that will be used to develop, monitor, review and improve how we deliver early intervention services

Describe the outcomes we aim to achieve together and the improvements we need to deliver

Set out an integrated approach to implementing our strategy and delivering those improvements



#### STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The requirement to produce a Children's Services Plan was established in legislation in The Children (1995 Order) (Amendment) (Children's Services Planning) Order 1998[1], and the central aims of Children's Services Planning are included in the Children's Services Planning Guidance 1998 (DHSS/DENI/NIO)

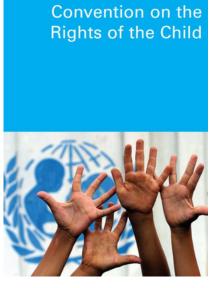
(http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/1998/261/made)

Additionally, The Children's Services Co-Operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015[2] (<a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2015/10/contents/enactedoutlines">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2015/10/contents/enactedoutlines</a>) our duty to work together and 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 United Nations

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 'wellbeing' as it relates to children and young people, and states that one of the factors contributing to wellbeing of children and young people is living in a society which respects their rights.

(<u>https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/unicef-convention-rights-child-uncrc.pdf</u>)

#### **Policy Context and Structures**

The CYPSP Plan is framed within the NI Executive Children and Young People's Strategy 2020-2030. This is the overarching Strategy for the delivery of improved outcomes for children and young people.

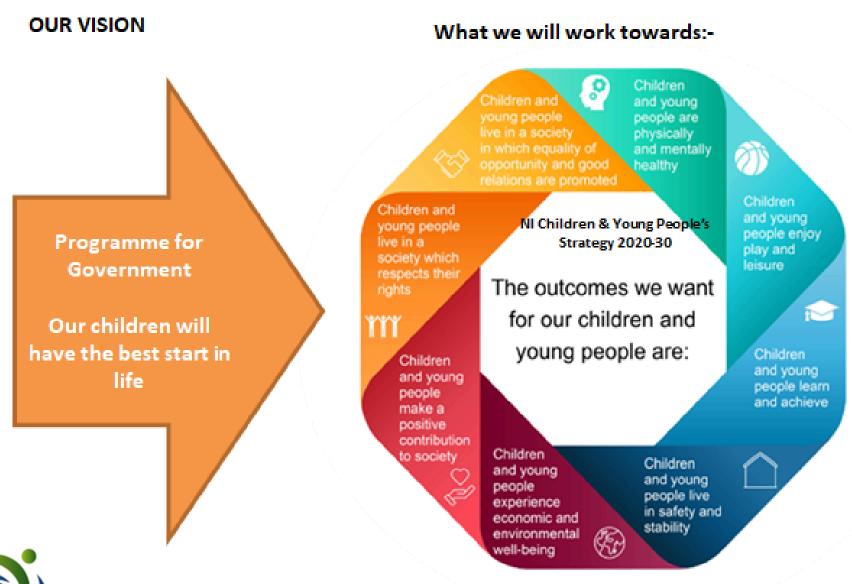
(<u>https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/children-and-young-peoples-strategy-2020-2030</u>)

### The Children and Young People's Strategy Monitoring and Reporting Board

The Children and Young People's Strategy Monitoring and Reporting Board was set up in 2023 and provides collaborative leadership, oversight and cross-departmental strategic direction on the co-ordination of all policy matters affecting children and young people and the implementation of the NI Executive Children and Young People's Strategy. This Board consists of senior representation from:

- The NI Executive Office;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Education;
- Department for Communities;
- Department of Justice;
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs;
- Department of Economy; and
- Department of Finance.

An important element of our work throughout the next three years, will be exploring how we strengthen alignment between the work of CYPSP, and the Children and Young People's Strategy Monitoring and Reporting Board in order to reduce / minimise duplication across Government Departments, and to maximise the potential for CYPSP to inform strategic decisions in line with the duties outlined in the Children's Services Cooperation Act 2015.

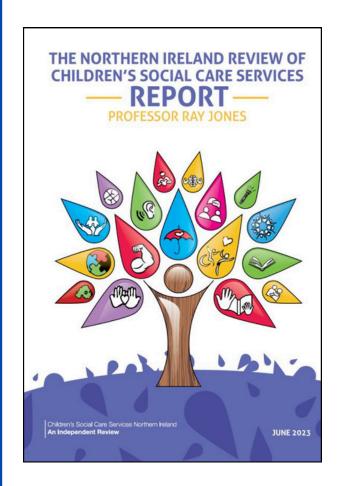




#### **The Strategic Landscape**

The production of this Plan takes account of a number of key strategic activities of CYPSP Partners that impact on early intervention on children and young people. These include but are not limited to:

#### The Independent Review of Children's Social Care (NI)



The Independent review of Children's Social Care was a fundamental examination of Children's Services in NI. The review was commissioned in October 2021 by the Minister for Health and the report with recommendations was published in June 2023.

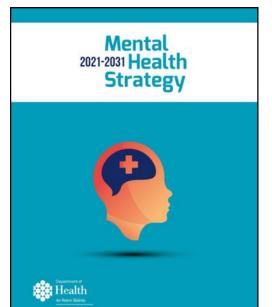
(<u>https://www.cscsreviewni.net/publications/report-independent-review-childrens-social-careservices-northern-ireland</u>)

In response to the report, the Children's Social Care Services Strategic Reform Board was established to oversee a programme of work on service improvement and delivery of transformation through a number of workstreams. The Partnership will continue to support reform activity in respect of the delivery of improvements in multi-agency early intervention family support services, through the provision of ongoing information sharing by Partners and through contribution to relevant workstreams which will inform the development of the new Family Support Strategy.





#### **NI Mental Health Strategy**



The NI Executive Mental Health Strategy for 2021-2031 sets the future strategic direction of mental health services in Northern Ireland.

(<u>https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/mental-health-strategy-2021-2031</u>)

The Partnership will continue to support the Strategy Implementation Plan and associated Workstreams, in

respect of Recommendations 1 and 2, which focus on early intervention and prevention across the whole life cycle.

#### This will include:

- Assisting with work on the data and outcomes framework in respect of children and young people which aligns with CYPSP information systems and interactive map already in existence; and
- Sharing learning and innovation, and communication resources already in place. This will include the CYPSP Youth Wellness Web.

#### **Department of Education: RAISE Programme**

The plan for the RAISE programme is for a whole community and place-based approach in localities across Northern Ireland to support the Department of Education's vision that "every child is happy, learning and succeeding". The programme aims to invest in whole community and place-based approaches to raise achievement to reduce educational disadvantage. Links have already been made with relevant existing CYPSP Locality Planning Groups to avoid duplication of effort and add value in promoting best outcomes for children and families in education settings.

To best harness the potential of integrated planning, all members are committed to ensuring that other strategic / policy interfaces and / or relevant multi-agency planning processes are taken account of during the life of this plan.





#### **OUR PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK**

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

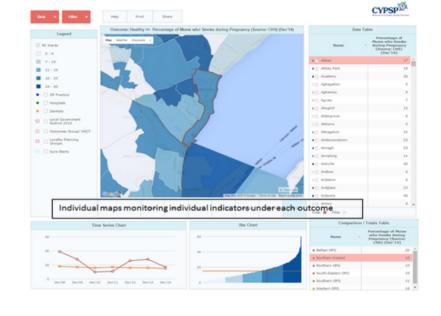
Identification of measurable population and performance indicators to inform multiagency integrated planning

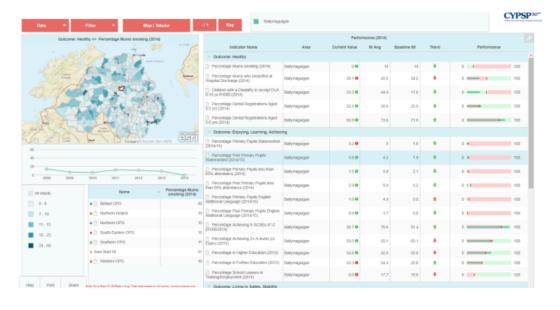
Maintenance of child rights indicators / <u>UNCRC</u> monitoring onto the CYPSP system

The production of OBA monitoring tools and report cards, for CYPSP's Outcomes Groups, Locality Planning Groups and Family Support Hubs

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

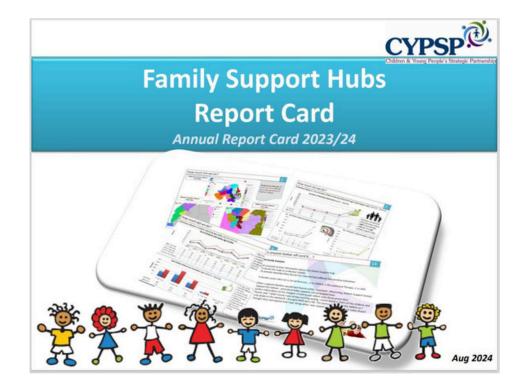
https://cypsp-maps.hscni.net/





The interactive performance system provides performance data against the high level outcomes measured against a baseline.

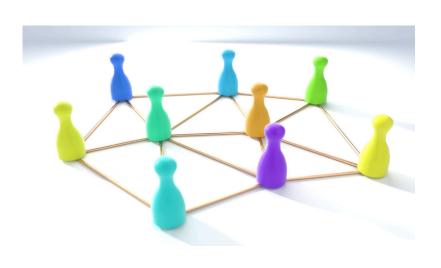
https://cypsp-maps.hscni.net/performance-profile/





#### **ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION**

Building on existing good practice on engagement and participation, opportunities have been provided through focus groups and consultation exercises with children and young people, parents / primary care givers, Outcomes Group members, Locality Planning Groups, and Partners to inform the development of the Plan.



#### **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 CYPSP Regional Children and Young People's (CYP) Participation Network builds on our relationships with existing agencies including youth advocacy groups, ethnic minority and migrant children, young carers and those from vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, and young people from across Northern Ireland. The work of the CYP Participation Network is aligned with the rights measurement of UNCRC child and the this indicators purpose collaborative Network is to ensure that children and young people continue to inform

"We want to be listened to and for our feedback to be acted upon" (Young Person)



the work of the Partnership. Feedback from the consultation process with children and young people in respect of the new Plan was provided to CYPSP in March 2024.



Full report can be viewed at <a href="https://cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/CYPSP-Voice-of-Children-Young-People.pdf">https://cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/CYPSP-Voice-of-Children-Young-People.pdf</a>

The top priorities identified by children and young people for inclusion in the Plan and examples of the commentary and suggested actions are identified below:

#### **Poverty**

Young people discussed money struggles, food banks, homelessness, cost of home economics classes, period poverty and Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

Suggestions made by young people on how things can be made better;



"Raise awareness of Ylink card, rambler services and other travel concessions"

"Provide budgeting sessions"

"Raise awareness of paid apprenticeships"

#### **School Disruption**



Young people discussed missed learning due to strikes, physical and mental health, bullying and isolation.

Suggestions made by young people on how things can be made better;

"Create a friendly atmosphere and space"

"Better preparation for transitions from school to work"

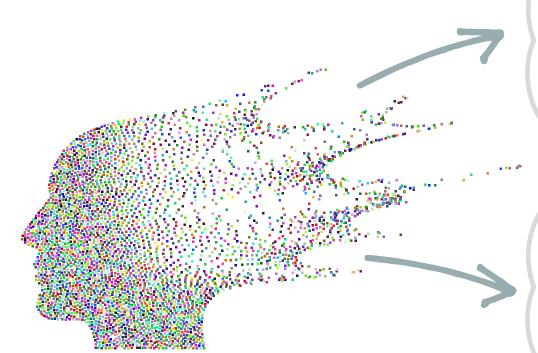
"Have a trusted adult available within all schools/colleges"



#### **Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Young people discussed the importance of talking to friends, picking up on feelings and checking in, exam stress, body image, anxiety and loneliness.

Suggestions made by young people on how things can be made better;



"Create opportunities to socialise in safe spaces, sport & exercise, face to face support, and group activities"

"Discuss mental health issues and provide more talks within schools to increase awareness"

#### **Children With a Disability / Additional Needs**

Young people discussed long waiting lists for assessment, limited support / receiving no support and moving school.

"To be involved with their IEPs and risk assessments"

Suggestions made by young people on how things can be made better;

"For staff to be offered more training relating to children and young people with a disability"

"To be seen as children first"





#### **Parental Participation**



The provision of a Parental Participation Service for CYPSP is contracted directly by the Department of Health (DoH), to enable the perspective of parents / primary care givers to influence the activities of the CYPSP and its working groups.

Feedback from the consultation process with parents / primary care givers in respect of the new Plan, was provided to CYPSP in March 2024.

"Parents are concerned about inconsistency and fragmentation of services and want to be able to find the right support at the right time".

"Parents want services that are family friendly and local".

"Peer support, activities and safe spaces for parents and young people in their communities".

"Parents want support to help with children's non attendance at school and school based anxiety".

#### **CYPSP Partner Consultation**

The CYPSP Pause and Reset Workshop in 2023, provided an opportunity for Partners to review the strategic role and function of CYPSP. This provided opportunity to acknowledge good practice and to agree actions to strengthen multi agency collaboration.

Areas for improvement included a need for collaborative ownership of the Plan, and collective accountability to strengthen the shared vision for children, young people, families and communities. The actions agreed from this work are incorporated in the new Plan.



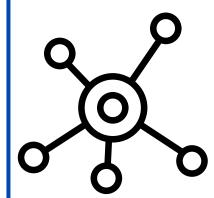
The existing CYPSP structure supports a collective leadership model including sharing of practice, knowledge and collective action planning.

Partners have a shared vision for children, young people, families and communities.

CYPSP does not always have a single voice, owing to multiple and varying priorities and strategies.



#### **Consultation and Feedback from Outcomes Groups**



All five Outcomes Groups participated in a planning process where they were provided with a planning pack developed by the Children's Services Planning Team, that included statistical information which identified performance against the indicators under each high-level outcome of the NI Children and Young People's Strategy.

Outcomes Groups Plans were also informed by information provided on emerging issues being raised by Locality Planning Groups (LPGs), unmet need identified by Family Support (FS) Hubs, consultation feedback from children and young people and information from parents / primary care givers.

Key cross cutting areas for the new Outcomes Groups Plans for 2025-2028 include:

- Inclusive\* provision of family support services;
- Mental health: in particular school-based anxiety;
- Poverty (in some Outcomes Group areas this also incorporates issues in respect of housing stress).

(\*this includes children with a disability | additional needs; children and young people at risk of involvement in criminal activity; ethnic minority and migrant children | young people; and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups.)

Individual Outcomes Groups Plans are included on pages 27-31.

### Consultation and Feedback from Multi-Agency Locality Planning Groups

The consultation process with LPGs highlighted those issues that are most common across all of the groups, as well as emerging specific locality-based needs.



Feedback on this aspect of the consultation process was shared with the partnership in March 2024.

Poverty and housing stresses are being reported as a significant area of concern across localities and the number of families experiencing difficulties connected to poverty continues to rise. LPG Coordinators also identified as emotional health and wellbeing needs as a cross cutting



theme, as well as a need to continue to develop and deliver early intervention services for children with additional needs.

#### **Learning and Evidence from Family Support Hubs**



Quarterly monitoring activity and annual reports from FS Hubs highlighted the main areas of unmet need both at Hub level and regionally.

At Hub level, unmet need varies in category and level across the region. Information about key areas of unmet need at locality level have been shared with LPGs and Outcomes Groups and these have helped to shape the Outcomes Group Plans.

There has been work undertaken to improve consistency in how unmet need is captured and reported across the region and ensuring this information is being reported on an ongoing basis across CYPSP structures.

The top five reasons for referral in 2023/24 were:

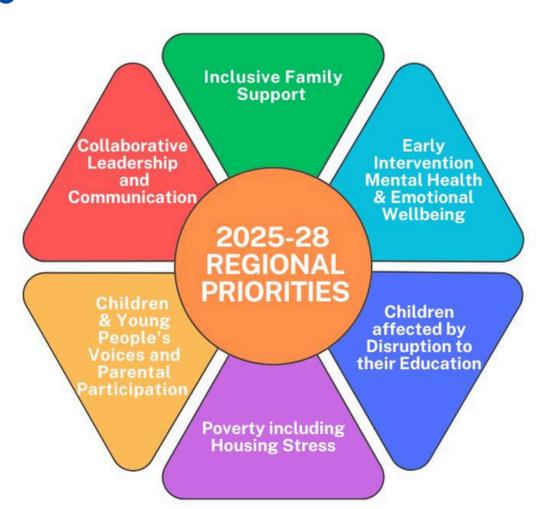
- Financial support;
- Emotional and behavioural difficulty support for primary age children;
- Parenting programmes / parenting support;
- Emotional and behavioural difficulty support for post primary school children; and
- Counselling services for children / young people.

Four of these reasons for referral also constitute unmet need across localities.





## OUR REGIONAL PRIORITIES AND OUTCOME STATEMENTS



The priorities contained within this Plan, are those where we believe our collective efforts can add most value in improving local outcomes.

They are based on our analysis of data and consultation feedback.

These are:

#### **PRIORITY**

Children and Young People's Voices and Parental Participation

#### **OUTCOME STATEMENT**

Children, young people and parents / primary care givers are supported to express their views and to participate in the planning process.

### **Collaborative Leadership** and Communication

High standard of cross sectoral collaborative leadership, ownership and communication of the agreed strategic objectives in NI Children and Young People's Plan.

### Inclusive Family Support

Families are able to access support to meet their needs as early as possible.

# Early Intervention Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Improved multi-agency early intervention of mental health and wellbeing services for children and families.

## Children Affected by Disruption to Their Education

Emotional and behavioural support for children, young people and families facing school based anxiety and / or avoidance.

Poverty including Housing Stress

Improved support to tackle the impact of poverty on the wellbeing of children, young people and their families including housing stress / homelessness.

#### **REGIONAL ACTION PLAN**

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES AND PARENTAL PARTICIPATION

Children, young people and parents / primary care givers are supported to express their views and to participate in the planning process

#### **ACTION**

# Support children and young people to contribute to the planning process and review of strategic priorities.

#### **EVALUATION**

# Children and young people have contributed positively to relevant Regional Subgroups / Task and Finish Groups, Outcomes Groups and LPGs via a range of approaches including surveys, focus groups and workshops.

#### LEAD

Task Groups,
Outcomes
Groups and
LPGs supported
by Children's
Services
Planning Team

Maintain the rights of the child as central to the Children Services
Planning process through the use of the UNCRC child rights monitoring data to inform action plans.

Increase in performance evidenced in annual reports 2025-2028 and linked to UNCRC indicators.

Outcomes
Groups and
LPGs supported
by Children's
Services
Planning Team

Support parents / primary care givers to contribute to annual planning and review of strategic priorities.

Parents / primary care givers have contributed positively to Outcomes Groups and LPGs via a range of approaches including surveys, focus groups and workshops.

CYPSP
Parental
Participation
Project in
conjunction with
Outcomes
Groups and
LPGs





#### **COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION**

High standard of cross sectoral collaborative leadership, ownership and communication of the agreed strategic objectives in NI Children and Young People's Plan

#### **ACTION**

# All Partners, both collectively and within own agencies, own and promote the NI Children and Young People's 2025-2028 Plan and the agreed strategic objectives identified.

#### **EVALUATION**

# Evidence of inclusion / reference to the NI Children and Young People's Plan in all Partner agencies Business Plans evidenced in Children's Services Planning annual reports and reported via Partnership.

#### LEAD

All Partners

All agencies will contribute to the provision of agency updates / activities to the Partnership including annual reviews of collaborative activity, achievements and challenges.

Evidence of equity of contribution by all Partner agencies to the sharing of information / learning in respect of the agreed regional priorities in annual reports and final 2025-2028 report card.

All Partners

Strengthen strategic synergy in monitoring and reporting processes in respect of the NI Executive Regional Children and Young People's Strategy and the NI Children and Young People's Plan in line with the duties outlined in the Northern Ireland Children's Services Co-operation Act.

Proposal to clarify alignment with Children and Young People's Strategy including monitoring and reporting processes signed off by Partnership March 2025.

All Partners







#### **COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION**

High standard of cross sectoral collaborative leadership, ownership and communication of the agreed strategic objectives in NI Children and Young People's Plan

#### **ACTION**

#### **EVALUATION**

#### LEAD

Revised CYPSP governance procedures to take account of strengthened monitoring and reporting processes.

Approved and signed off by all Partners September 2025.

Children's
Services
Planning Team

Facilitate joint commissioning by agencies when it is seen as appropriate to meet the needs of children. By 2027 will evidence joint commissioning in 4-5 Partnership areas.

**All Partners** 

Ensure cross sectoral
Outcomes Groups leadership,
membership and participation in
the management of Outcomes
Groups Plans, including
consideration of recruitment of
non Health and Social Care
Trust Outcomes Groups
chairing arrangements.

Evidence of gap analysis of Outcomes Groups membership completed by June 2025, and of additional cross sectoral representation at Outcomes Groups where required, in place by September 2025 and reflected in annual membership / attendance audit.

Outcomes
Groups assisted
by Children's
Services
Planning Team







#### **COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION**

High standard of cross sectoral collaborative leadership, ownership and communication of the agreed strategic objectives in NI Children and Young People's Plan

#### **ACTION**

# All Outcomes Groups Plans are aligned with the agreed strategic priorities and informed by CYPSP baseline and performance data which will be disseminated annually by the Children's Services Planning Team (SPPG/DoH) to inform planning and assist with annual review of plans.

# Continued work on aligning Outcomes Groups Plans with local Council Community Plans across the region.

# All LPG Plans are aligned with the agreed strategic priorities and make use of CYPSP baseline and performance data but also include where necessary, responses to other areas of localised need and area reviewed annually at Outcomes Groups level.

Review and update the regional standards for Locality Planning.

#### **EVALUATION**

Evidence of all five
Outcomes Groups
Plans including
baseline and
performance data
uploaded to the
CYPSP website,
reviewed and updated
annually.

Evidence of alignment of all children and young people sections of local Council Community Plans by March 2026 and reflected in annual reports.

Evidence of LPG Plans presented using an agreed standard template, uploaded to the CYPSP website and reviewed and updated annually.

Revised standards developed and signed off by the Partnership by September 2025.

#### **LEAD**

Outcomes
Groups
assisted by
Children's
Services
Planning Team

Local Councils
assisted by
Children's
Services
Planning Team

LPG
Coordinators
assisted by
Children's
Services
Planning Team

LPG
Coordinators
assisted by
Children's
Services
Planning Team



#### **INCLUSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT**

Families are able to access support to meet their needs as early as possible

#### **ACTION**

#### **EVALUATION**

#### **LEAD**

Maintain strong links with the reform of social care process workstreams.

All Partners are clear on the implications of the Reform of Social Care Workstream activity and implications for the multi-agency early intervention have been explored e.g. models of early intervention family support, children with disability.

Workstream
Chairs / All
Partners

Align strategic and locality based planning with objectives identified in the Regional Disability Framework and maintain coproduction activity with parents / primary care givers and children with disability / additional needs.

Monitored use and continuous feedback in respect of Your Journey Guide (co-produced with parents / primary care givers).

Evidence through report cards and new resources.

All Partners /
Outcomes
Groups /
Children's
Services
Planning Team

Strengthen links with agencies and representatives of ethnic minorities to identify supports and gaps in early intervention service provision.

Evidenced through report cards on pilot initiatives, roll out of innovative projects and training and analysis of usage of CYPSP Translation Hub. All Partners /
Outcomes
Groups

Strengthen multi-agency activity in respect early intervention services for children and young people at risk of involvement in criminal activity.

Evidenced through the outworking of the CYPSP Prevention of Offending Subgroup / updates to the Partnership.

CYPSP
Prevention of
Offending
Subgroup
members



#### **INCLUSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT**

Families are able to access support to meet their needs as early as possible

#### **ACTION**

# All five Outcomes Groups will develop and maintain local based planning to improve the provision of practical family support in their area, address and report on gaps in services and maintain links with the reform of social care process.

#### **EVALUATION**

#### Evidence through report cards.

Evidence of family support delivery mechanisms, identification of gaps and exploration of existing best practice across the region.

Evidence through specific reports on emerging challenges or the role / structure of FS Hubs, where deemed appropriate.

#### **LEAD**

#### Outcomes Groups

LPGs will develop and maintain locality based planning to improve the provision of practical family support, address and report on gaps in services and escalate to Outcomes Groups.

Evidence through LPG report cards.

Evidence of emerging needs reported to Outcomes Groups.

LPG Coordinators

FS Hubs maintain and develop Hub monitoring and reporting, respond to developments and trends and share information re unmet need to LPGs and Outcomes Groups.

Evidenced through report cards, family samples and FS Hubs annual report cards 2025-2028.

Regional Lead for FS Hubs







#### **EARLY INTERVENTION MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING**

Improved multi-agency early intervention of emotional mental health and wellbeing services for children and families

#### **ACTION**

### PHA as lead agency will take forward actions and ensure effective duplication, and provide

contributions from Partners to avoid regular updates in respect of NI Mental **Health Strategy** implementation.

#### CYPSP data and outcomes information is used to inform NI Mental **Health Strategy** implementation to avoid duplication.

Maintain the co-produced **CYPSP Youth Wellness** Web through the use of consultation forums and surveys.

#### **EVALUATION**

All Partners are aware of and contributing to actions in respect of the implementation of NI Mental Health Strategy Recommendations 1 and 2.

Evidence through consultation for annual reports 2025-2028.

#### The CYPSP data and outcomes information is aligned to NI Mental Health Strategy outcomes framework.

Monitored use and continuous feedback from children, young people, families and professionals evidenced through reach and survey feedback.

#### **LEAD**

PHA / All Partners

NI Mental Health Strategy Data and **Outcomes** Subgroup, assisted by Children's **Services Planning** Team

Children's **Services Planning** Team







#### **EARLY INTERVENTION MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING**

Improved multi-agency early intervention of emotional mental health and wellbeing services for children and families

#### **ACTION**

All five Outcomes Groups will wellbeing in their area, address

develop and maintain local based planning to improve the provision of early intervention mental health emotional and report on gaps in services and maintain links with the NI Mental Health Strategy Implementation Plan (Recommendations 1 and 2), and the Regional Emotional Health and Wellbeing Frameworks.

#### LPGs will develop and maintain locality based planning to improve multi-agency mental health emotional wellbeing services and explore emerging issues to address or escalate to Outcomes Groups.

FS Hubs maintain and develop Hub monitoring and reporting, respond to developments and trends, and share information re unmet need to LPGs and Outcomes Groups.

#### **EVALUATION**

Evidence through report cards and illustrated in CYPSP annual reports 2025-2028.

**Outcomes** Groups

**LEAD** 

Evidence through report cards.

Emerging needs reported to Outcomes Groups.

**LPG** Coordinators

Evidenced through report cards, family samples and FS Hub annual report cards 2025-2028.

FS Hubs led by Regional Lead for FS Hubs





#### CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DISRUPTION TO THEIR EDUCATION

Emotional and behavioural support for children, young people and their families facing school-based anxiety and / or avoidance

#### **ACTION EVALUATION LEAD** The Partnership will support the Evidence of alignment Department of Education implementation of Department of with agreed locality Education's RAISE initiative. based outcomes via the RAISE initiative. All five Outcomes Groups will Evidence of **Outcomes** improvement through develop and maintain local based Groups planning to improve emotional and report cards and behavioural support for children, population and young people and their families outcome data by 2027. facing school based anxiety and / or avoidance to include developing and maintaining links with Emotional Wellbeing Teams in schools, and Department of Education's RAISE initiative. LPGs included in Department of Evidence of I PG Education's RAISE initiative will work improvement through Coordinators alongside the RAISE Co-ordinators in report cards and those localities. population and outcome data by 2027. Evidence through LPGs will continue to explore **LPG** report cards. Coordinators emerging issues / gaps in respect of education to address or escalate to **Emerging needs** Outcomes Groups. reported to Outcomes Groups. Parental Participation Service will Evidence of co-**CYPSP** work with parents / primary care produced resources. **Parental**

**Participation** 

Service (CINI)

givers around production of a guide

for parents / solutions for school

avoidance.

#### **POVERTY INCLUDING HOUSING STRESS**

Improved support to tackle the impact of poverty on the wellbeing of children, young people and their families including housing stress / homelessness

#### **ACTION**

#### **EVALUATION**

#### **LEAD**

The Partnership will review and share learning, challenges and good practice in respect of statutory, community and voluntary support services / currently available within and between respective agencies including local government and Housing Executive initiatives.

Evidence of a more comprehensive understanding of services available across sectors to inform appropriate dissemination to families and children via CYPSP and Partner agencies.

All Partners

All five Outcomes Groups will develop a coordinated approach to provide timely support in respect of food and fuel poverty and the cost of living crisis.

Evidence of improvement through report cards and population and outcome data by 2027.

Outcomes Groups

LPGs will develop and maintain locality based planning to improve multiagency provision of services to support children and families in poverty, and explore emerging issues to address or escalate to Outcomes Groups.

Evidence of improvement through report cards and population and outcome data by 2027.

LPG Coordinators

FS Hubs will continue to signpost families which will assist with food and fuel poverty issues.

Evidence of improvement through FS Hub report cards and FS Hub monitoring data.

FS Hubs led by Regional Lead for FS Hubs



#### **ASSOCIATED LOCALITY BASED PLANS**

#### **Outcomes Groups**

#### Belfast Area Outcomes Group Plan on a Page

CYPSP (d)

Regional Priorities

#### Belfast Area Outcomes Group Page Plan 2025-2028

Early Intervention/ Early Help Family Support for All

#### Outcomes

- Support access / links to services for children though effective, seamless and appropriate early intervention.
- All newcomer and migrant families are welcomed and connected to Belfast's seamless pathway ambitions.

#### Key Actions

- Build on the work of existing Partnerships supporting Early Intervention work in the City to deliver on the Seamless Pathway support for children, aged 0-8yrs, in Belfast.
- · Link to and build on existing Good Relations strategies.

Early Intervention mental health & emotional wellbeing

#### Outcomes

 Improved connections to mental health and wellbeing services for our children and young people in Belfast.

#### Key Actions

- Develop community connections and networks around the emotional health and wellbeing approaches at post primary level, being rolled out in Belfast
- Scale and spread the existing connections between emotional health and wellbeing early intervention services and the FSH network and members.
- · Develop a sub-group to identify available therapeutic services

#### Outcomes

School Disruption

Children, young people and families receive support at an early stage in respect of anxiety based school avoidance / reduced timetables

#### **Key Actions**

- Link with the Emotional Wellbeing Teams in schools to share learning and resources
- Highlight school avoidance / reduced timetables as a key area for RAISE to explore as a relevant need.

Poverty/ Cost of Living

#### Outcomes

Continue to build resources focused on activity that has been shown to have a positive impact on reducing poverty and / or its effects, ensuring support is responsive to families' situations.

oort Early

#### Key Actions

- Work with BCC to support the development of an anti-poverty network
- Continue to build on the work of existing partnerships to support the capacity of agencies to respond effectively to identified need within the BAOG area.
- Increase the capacity of agencies to co-design, co-produce and co-deliver responses to identified need within the BAOG area.

Locality Planning Groups

Family Support Hubs

Intervention

The voice of children & young people Task and Finish Groups

#### Belfast Area Outcomes Group Baseline Data 2022-24

Referrals to Family Support Hub for financial support 2023-24:

1456

Percentage of Children living in Absolute low-income Poverty before housing costs 2023:

12%

Percentage of pupils with less than 85% attendance rate 2022

Primary - **17.8**%

Post Primary 22.9%

Rate/10,000 of 0-17 y/o admitted to hospital with self- harm diagnosis in 2023

6.8

Number 0-18 y/o deaths by Suicide 2022:

0

Demographic Profile 2022:

0-4 yrs - 20,284

5-9 yrs - 21,634

10-14 yrs - 22,380

15-17 yrs – 11,922

**0-17 yrs – 76,220** % Child Population – **20.8**% Number of young people referred to Family Support Hub 2023/24 for emotional behavioural difficulties, counselling & one to one support:

1,194

Children 0-15 yrs in receipt of DLA Rate per 1,000 Feb 24:

103.4

Crimes recorded with a Domestic
Abuse Motivation per 1000 pop

2023/24

Percent referred in 2023

14.4

Percentage of young people referred to Family Support Hub in 2023/24 with a disability:

19%

Awaiting diagnosis: 14%

Primary School Pupils English as second language 2022: 10.5%

Post Primary School Pupils English as second language 2022: **3.2**%



#### Northern Area Outcomes Group Plan on a Page



Regional Priorities

#### Northern Area Outcomes Group Page Plan 2025-2028

Early Intervention/ Early Help Family Support for All

#### Outcomes

- Families can access support at point of need as soon as possible
- Improve early help/ access to support for children with disability/additional needs and their families

#### **Key Actions**

- Raise awareness of practical family support, parent support/peer support and empower parents
- · Ensure equity of access to family support across the Trust area
- Identify opportunities to deliver more face to face family support
- Evaluate impact of EISS with a view to expansion
- Develop and launch parent/carers guide/workbook on behaviour

Early Intervention mental health & emotional wellbeing

#### Outcomes

 Develop conditions of resilience that straddles the HSC, Education, Community & voluntary sectors

#### **Key Actions**

- Systematic collaboration between H&WB teams across education and health
- Link with Connect North Team re social prescribing
- Promote early intervention via FSHs
- · Scope unmet need

#### Outcomes

 Emotional and behavioural support for CYP & families facing school-based anxiety/ avoidance

#### Key Actions

- Developing support for parents of children with significant vulnerabilities...
- Link with EWTs in Schools in respect of young people's feedback on school disruption.

#### Outcomes

Poverty/ Cost of Living

**Locality Planning** 

Groups

School Disruption

Develop a co-ordinated approach to provide timely support across NAOG area in respect of food and fuel poverty and cost of living crisis

→ | 1

Family Support

Early Intervention

#### **Key Actions**

- Link with Councils in respect of identifying a managed pathway and links with Family Support Hubs
- Identify current best practice and increase awareness of local systems and financial supports available (inc childcare assistance, period poverty, travel concessions)

The voice of children & young people

Task and Finish Groups

#### Northern Area Outcomes Group Baseline Data 2022-24

Referrals to Family Support Hub for financial support 2023-24:

267

Percentage of Children living in Absolute low-income Poverty before housing costs 2023:

18%

Percentage of pupils with less than 85% attendance rate 2022

Primary - **10.8**%

Post Primary 18.7%

Rate/10,000 of 0-17 y/o admitted to hospital with self- harm diagnosis in 2023

3.5

Demographic Profile 2022:

0-4 yrs - 27,026

5-9 yrs – 30,235

10-14 yrs - 31,963 15-17 yrs - 18,129

0-17 yrs - 107,353

% Child Population – **22.4**%

Number 0-18 y/o deaths by Suicide 2022:

2

Number of young people referred to Family Support Hub 2023/24 for emotional behavioural difficulties, counselling & one to one support:

1,815

Children 0-15 yrs in receipt of DLA Rate per 1,000 Feb 24:

88.8

Percentage of young people referred to Family Support Hub in 2023/24 with a disability:

23%

Awaiting diagnosis: 9%

Primary School Pupils English as second language 2022: **6.2**%

Post Primary School Pupils English as second language 2022: 2.0%

Crimes recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation per 1000 pop 2023/24

9.0



#### South Eastern Area Outcomes Group Plan on a Page



Regional Priorities

#### South Eastern Area Outcomes Group Page Plan 2025-2028

#### Early Intervention/ Early Help Family

Support for All

#### Outcomes

- Families can access support at point of need as soon as possible.
- Improve early help/ access to support for children with disability/ additional needs and their families.

#### **Key Actions**

- Establish and strengthen a full representative multi-agency Outcomes Group to own and deliver the Action Plan.
- Raise awareness, promote and embed training resources (inc. language) to upskill practitioners.
- Explore how Outcomes Group interfaces and supports locality planning priorities, community planning and integrated planning.

#### Early Intervention mental health & emotional wellbeing

#### Outcomes

 Maximise contribution of the entire community in understanding children's emotional development.

#### **Key Actions**

- Design a campaign plan to promote services and resources across the entire community (including statutory, C&V, C&YP, local communities and families.)
- Explore the Connected Minds and Perfectly Prideful models as examples of good practice around youth mental health provision.

School Disruption

#### Outcomes

Improve awareness, prevention and early intervention to support children's emotional wellbeing and attendance at school.

#### Key Actions

- Identify support and resources for parents who are struggling with their children's school attendance (online and in person) and build peer support amongst parents.
- 2. Link with EWTS/ RAISE to share learning and resources.

#### Poverty/ Cost of Living

#### Outcomes

Increase access to relevant and appropriate poverty cost of living support for children, young people and families.

#### Key Actions

- 1. Identify best method of meeting unmet need with partners.
- Look at opportunities to deliver financial educations for children, young people and families including Ylink, EMA, paid apprenticeships.

Locality Planning Groups

Family Support Hubs Early Intervention The voice of children & young people

Task and Finish Groups

#### South Eastern Area Outcomes Group Baseline Data 2022-24

Referrals to Family Support Hub for financial support 2023-24:

0

Percentage of Children living in Absolute low-income Poverty before housing costs 2023:

17%

Percentage of pupils with less than 85% attendance rate 2022

Primary - 12.3%

Post Primary 21.8%

Rate/10,000 of 0-17 y/o admitted to hospital with self- harm diagnosis in 2023

5.6

Demographic Profile 2022:

0-4 yrs - 20,258

5-9 yrs - 23,450

10-14 yrs - 24,822

15-17 yrs – 13,665 0-17 yrs – 82,195

% Child Population - 22.2%

Number 0-18 y/o deaths by Suicide 2022:

C

Number of young people referred to Family Support Hub 2023/24 for emotional behavioural difficulties, counselling & one to one support:

581

Children 0-15 yrs in receipt of DLA Rate per 1,000 Feb 24:

88.2

Percentage of young people referred to Family Support Hub in 2023/24 with a disability:

39%

Primary School Pupils English as second language 2022: **3.2**%

Post Primary School Pupils English as second language 2022: **0.8**%

Crimes recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation per 1000 pop 2023/24

8.8



#### Southern Area Outcomes Group Plan on a Page



**Regional Priorities** 

#### Southern Area Outcomes Group Page Plan 2025-2028

Early Intervention/ Early Help Family Support for All

#### Outcomes

- Families can access support at point of need as soon as possible
- Improve early help/ access to support for children with a disability and their families
- Improve access to Services for Migrant Minority Ethnic

#### **Key Actions**

- Raise awareness of practical family support, parent support/peer support and empower parents
- Update and promote Inclusive Community Toolkit to improve access to services for <u>CwD</u>
- · Establish welcome/community hubs across the Southern Area

Early Intervention mental health & emotional well being

#### Outcomes

Young People & Families have improved resilience and timely access to support at the point of need

#### **Key Actions**

- · Enhance multi-agency awareness of available support services
- Enhance awareness of support for young people
- · Enhance awareness of support for parents

School Disruption

#### Outcomes

Wraparound whole Family support Pathway for nonschool attenders

#### Key Actions

 Design Pilot in respect of filling gap for 13-16 yrs services for young people that are hard to reach and isolated on a step by step pathway approach

Poverty/ Cost of Living

#### Outcomes

Provide timely support to vulnerable people in the community in respect of food and fuel poverty and cost of living crisis

#### **Key Actions**

- Link with Councils in respect of identifying a managed pathway and links with Family Support Hubs
- Link, support and share information with council stakeholder forums

Locality Planning Groups

Family Support Hubs Early Intervention The voice of children & young people

Task and Finish Groups

#### Southern Area Outcomes Group Baseline Data 2022-24

Referrals to Family Support Hub for financial support 2023-24:

34

Percentage of Children living in Absolute low-income Poverty before housing costs 2023:

15%

Percentage of pupils with less than 85% attendance rate 2022

Primary - 11.7%

Post Primary 18.6%

Rate/10,000 of 0-17 y/o admitted to hospital with self- harm diagnosis in 2023

4.7

Demographic Profile 2022:

0-4 yrs - 25,859

5-9 yrs - 28,146

10-14 yrs - 28,958

15-17 yrs - 16,154

0-17 yrs - 99,117

% Child Population – 25.2%

Number 0-18 y/o deaths by Suicide 2022:

1

Number of young people referred to Family Support Hub 2023/24 for emotional behavioural difficulties, counselling & one to one support:

676

Children 0-15 yrs in receipt of DLA Rate per 1,000 Feb 24:

60.8

Percentage of young people referred to Family Support Hub in 2023/24 with a disability:

Awaiting diagnosis: 14%

15%

Primary School Pupils English as second language 2022: **12.0**%

Post Primary School Pupils English as second language 2022: **6.1**%

Crimes recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation per 1000 pop 2023/24

9.7



#### Western Area Outcomes Group Plan on a Page



#### Regional Priorities

#### Western Area Outcomes Group Page Plan 2025-2028

Early Intervention/ Early Help Family Support for All

#### Outcomes

- Families can access support at point of need as soon as possible
- Improve early help/ access to support for children with additional needs and their families

#### **Key Actions**

- Raise awareness of Early Help family support services available across WAOG area.
- Raise awareness of parent support/peer support and empower
- Promote Autism social cafes across WAOG area

Early Intervention mental health & emotional wellbeing

#### Outcomes

Young People & Families have improved resilience and early access to MHEW support at the point of need

#### Key Actions

- Promote services and programmes available across WAOG via FSNI, YWW and partner agencies
- Identify opportunities & encourage young people to engage In their communities
- Share toolkits to Scale up Uniform exchange for sports clubs to help remove barriers

School Disruption

#### Outcomes

Young People and parents receive support at an early stage in respect of school refusal/anxiety

#### Key Actions

- Link with Emotional Wellbeing Teams in schools to share learning and
- Campaign based on good practice to encourage school attendance "coming back after lockdown"

Poverty/ Cost of Living

#### Outcomes

Provide timely support to vulnerable people in the community in respect of food and fuel poverty and cost of living crisis

#### Key Actions

Connect with 3x Council areas to promote alignment and influence the strategic plans being taken forward for children and families & identify current local structures in place to tackle poverty

**Locality Planning** Groups

Family Support Hubs

Early Intervention The voice of children & young people

Task and Finish Groups

#### Western Area Outcomes Group Baseline Data 2022-24

Referrals to Family Support Hub for financial support 2023-24:

800

Percentage of Children living in Absolute low-income Poverty before housing costs 2023:

26%

Percentage of pupils with less than

Primary - 11.9%

Post Primary 22.6%

Rate/10,000 of 0-17 y/o admitted to hospital with self- harm diagnosis in 2023

5.0

Number 0-18 y/o deaths by Suicide 2022:

85% attendance rate 2022

Demographic Profile 2022:

0-4 yrs - 18,505

5-9 yrs - 20,193

10-14 yrs - 21,166

15-17 yrs - 11,956 0-17 yrs - 71,820

% Child Population - 23.8%

Number of young people referred to Family Support Hub 2023/24 for emotional behavioural difficulties, counselling & one to one support:

1272

Children 0-15 yrs in receipt of DLA Rate per 1,000 Feb 24:

78.4

Crimes recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation per 1000 pop 2023/24

10.7

Percentage of young people referred to Family Support Hub in 2023/24 with a disability:

14%

Awaiting diagnosis: 7%

Primary School Pupils English as second language 2022: 3.4%

Post Primary School Pupils English as second language 2022: 1.2%



#### **Outcomes Groups Full Plans**

Full Outcomes Groups Action Plans can be viewed at:

Belfast Area Outcomes Group;
Northern Area Outcomes Group;
South Area Eastern Outcomes Group;
Southern Area Outcomes Group; and
Western Area Outcomes Group.

These plans are live documents and will be updated throughout the planning cycle and subject to annual review.



#### **Locality Planning Groups Plans**

The 25 LPGs across the region have developed individualised Action Plans which are linked to the actions identified in Outcomes Groups Plans, and the baseline data which identifies localised priorities.



These Action Plans are live and will be updated throughout the planning cycle, and subject to annual review and can be viewed at <a href="https://cypsp.hscni.net/locality-planning-groups/">https://cypsp.hscni.net/locality-planning-groups/</a>



#### **CYPSP STRUCTURE**





#### **CYPSP WORKING DEFINITIONS**

The Plan focusses on promoting prevention and early intervention, and works 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.

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

The Plan also works 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.

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



#### **PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

#### **Statutory Sector**

Department of Health Strategic Planning & Performance Group

Public Health Agency

Health and Social Care Trusts

**NI Housing Executive** 

**Probation Board NI** 

Police Service NI

**Youth Justice Agency** 

**Department of Education** 

**Education Authority NI** 

Council for Catholic Maintained Schools

SOLACE

Safeguarding Board NI

**Department for Communities** 

#### **Voluntary Sector**

Children in NI

**Action for Children** 

Include Youth

**Action Mental Health** 

Barnardo's

National Children's Bureau

**Bytes Project** 

**ASCERT** 

#### **Community Sector**

Dry Arch Children's Centre

Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group

**Bolster Community** 

Mae Murray Foundation

#### **BAME Sector**

Wah Hep Chinese Community Association



\*\* Wider CYPSP Membership - There is a broader range of organisations from across the community, voluntary and statutory sectors participating at Outcomes Group and Locality Planning levels.

#### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING TEAM**

Maxine Gibson	Children's Services Planning Professional Advisor
Bronwyn Campbell	Regional Lead for Family Support Hub Network
Valerie Maxwell	Children's Services Planning & Information Manager
Vacant	Regional Locality Planning Coordinator
Sharon McMinn	Children's Services Planning Support Officer
Louise Dickson	Children's Services Planning Support Officer
Yvonne Neill	Children's Services Planning Information Officer

