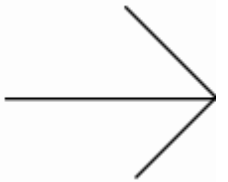




Key updates and progress achieved

Western Area Key Achievements 2025/26





Western Area Outcomes Group Key Achievements 2025/26

Collaborative Partnership Working

Western Area Outcomes Group's achievements are underpinned by strong collaboration across statutory, community and voluntary sectors, enabling coordinated and preventative responses to local need.

Focus on Priority Areas

Targeted work has focused on emotional wellbeing, neurodiversity, poverty and strengthening family support services to address key challenges for children and families.

Impact Through Co-production

A strong commitment to co-production and early intervention ensures that the voices of children, families and practitioners inform planning, support delivery and improved outcomes.

Measurable Community Improvements

Coordinated planning and shared resources have enhanced service awareness, strengthened referral pathways and improved confidence, resilience and access to support across communities.

Key Achievements for Children with Disabilities

Neurodiversity Awareness Workshops

Workshops engaged parents, practitioners, and young people to promote understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity.

Specialist Therapeutic Interventions

Interventions like neurodiverse yoga and therapeutic supports helped children develop coping and regulation skills.

Parent Workshops and Peer Support

Parent-focused workshops and peer support reduced isolation and improved confidence for families.

Autism-Specific Tailored Support

Autism-specific services provided practical support with bespoke action plans developed collaboratively.



Impact on Children with Disabilities and Families



Family Understanding and Acceptance

Parents and carers gained greater understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity, enhancing support for children's unique strengths and needs.

Enhanced Support Strategies

Improved strategies at home and school reduced anxiety and boosted confidence in children and young people with additional needs.

Emotional Wellbeing and Community

Families experienced less stress and isolation through peer networks, local services, and tailored interventions, improving overall wellbeing.

Practitioner Confidence and Inclusion

Practitioners reported increased competence in inclusive practices, strengthening support systems for children with disabilities.



Key Achievements for Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Targeted Support for Attendance

Focused interventions addressed emotionally based school non-attendance, supporting young people, parents and schools through tailored and collaborative approaches.

School-Based Emotional Programmes

Programmes delivered within school settings enhanced emotional literacy, resilience and self-regulation, reaching over 200 children.

Therapeutic and Counselling Supports

Partnership working with specialist providers enabled delivery of therapeutic supports for children experiencing anxiety, emotional distress and trauma.

Positive Outcomes and Feedback

Consistently positive feedback from participants and schools highlights the value of coordinated wellbeing support and its impact on outcomes.

Impact on Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Improvements in Youth Wellbeing

Young people demonstrated improved attendance, engagement and emotional regulation through targeted wellbeing initiatives.

Parental Confidence and Support

Parents reported increased confidence and reduced stress, supported by improved communication and collaboration with schools.

Positive School-Based Interventions

In-class and targeted interventions enhanced learning readiness, behaviour and overall wellbeing within school settings.

Coordinated Multi-Agency Support

Collaborative multi-agency approaches ensured timely, appropriate support tailored to individual needs.





Key Achievements for Poverty

Targeted Financial Support

Families experiencing financial pressure received support with essential costs, including food, gas and electricity, helping to alleviate immediate hardship.

Accessible Local Support

Support was delivered through trusted local services, ensuring timely access and reducing stress for families.

Household Stability and Wellbeing

Interventions helped maintain essential utilities and supported family wellbeing during periods of crisis.

Building Long-Term Resilience

Engagement with wider services supported families to build resilience and achieve improved stability beyond immediate support.

Impact on Poverty

Reduced Financial Stress

Support enabled families to maintain essential utilities, including heat and electricity, helping to reduce immediate financial pressures.

Improved Emotional Wellbeing

Families experienced calmer home environments and improved emotional health through timely and targeted support.

Strengthened Service Engagement

Increased trust and connection with services encouraged earlier help-seeking and sustained engagement with support providers.

Sustained Wellbeing Outcomes

Meeting immediate needs while connecting families to ongoing support contributed to improved long-term wellbeing and reduced risk of future hardship.





Locality Planning Groups Key Achievements 2025/26

Collaborative Planning and Meetings

Regular Locality Planning Group meetings supported collaborative planning, enabling partners to share insights and respond to emerging community needs.

Workforce Development and Training

Targeted workshops and training enhanced practitioner knowledge across key areas, including child development, emotional wellbeing and digital safeguarding.

School and Youth Engagement

Programmes strengthened links between schools and community services, improving awareness of available supports for children and young people.

Strengthened Partnership Networks

Networking opportunities enhanced cross-sector relationships, improved referral pathways and reduced duplication of services.

Locality Planning Groups Information Sharing & Networking

FYI Newsletter

A monthly FYI newsletter is produced, to share key early intervention and family support information across the Western area. Engagement remained strong in 2025/26, with online hits reaching 751 in February, and positive feedback highlighted its value in improving service awareness and supporting effective signposting to families.

Fermanagh Youth Networking Event

The event was delivered in response to identified gaps in awareness of youth supports across a diverse provider landscape, bringing together 14 organisations from statutory, community and voluntary sectors to improve visibility of services and strengthen connections. A structured questionnaire informed by WAOG priorities captured practitioner insights on emerging needs, including financial pressures, emotional wellbeing and school-based anxiety. Feedback highlighted increased confidence in signposting and collaboration, alongside enhanced understanding of LPG activity and strengthened opportunities for joint working and service development.

Omagh Youth Networking Event

The event was delivered in response to identified gaps in awareness of youth supports, bringing together 24 organisations from statutory, community and voluntary sectors to improve service visibility and connections. Feedback highlighted increased knowledge of local supports, enhanced collaboration and confidence in signposting, alongside the development of a youth support directory to improve access and coordination across the area.



Locality Planning Groups Workshops & Programmes



Understand Me: Making Sense of Children's Feelings & Behaviours Workshops – Cityside & Strabane Locality Planning Groups

In response to identified challenges relating to children's behaviour and communication, two workshops were delivered focusing on practical, evidence-based approaches to understanding behaviour, emotional regulation and parenting strategies. A total of 48 parents and practitioners attended, with feedback highlighting increased confidence, improved consistency in responses to children's needs, and a stronger focus on emotionally supportive environments. The joint training model also strengthened collaboration between practitioners and families, with early indications of improved capacity to manage day-to-day challenges.



LEAD (Learning, Educate, Advise and Develop) Programme – Fermanagh & Omagh Locality Planning Groups

In response to identified need for early, preventative support within schools, a six-week programme was delivered collaboratively by Locality Planning Group members to 87 Year 7 pupils in a targeted school, focusing on emotional wellbeing, resilience, confidence and positive behaviours. Delivered through interactive, classroom-based sessions by local practitioners, the programme strengthened school-community links and included resources to support family engagement. Feedback indicated improved understanding, confidence and emotional regulation among pupils, alongside strengthened partnership working between practitioners and schools, enhancing opportunities for ongoing early intervention support.



Behaviour Strategies & Regulation Framework Workshop – Waterside Locality Planning Group

In response to identified challenges among families relating to children's behaviour and communication a workshop was delivered by Arc Horizons. This was attended by 20 parents and practitioners and focused on core principles of regulation, connection and confidence, underpinned by an understanding of brain development and behaviour as communication. Feedback indicated improved understanding and increased confidence in supporting children, with many participants reporting greater ability to apply strategies consistently and effectively in practice.

Locality Planning Groups Community Engagement

Compassionate Connected Communities Event

Limavady Locality Planning Group, in partnership with Dry Arch Family Support Hub, delivered a Compassionate Connected Communities event in response to increasing family need linked to cost of living pressures and social isolation. The event brought together a wide range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations to showcase early intervention supports, strengthen referral pathways and improve access to services. Engagement with families increased awareness of available supports, encouraged earlier help-seeking and reduced isolation, while also strengthening collaboration between providers. The initiative enhanced cross-sector partnerships, improved coordination and directly contributed to Western Area Outcomes Group priorities by promoting early intervention, strengthening community connections and improving access to support.



Marking UNICEF Recognition of the Western Trust Area as a UNICEF Child Friendly Community

World Children's Day 2025 marked Derry and Strabane's recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly Community, bringing together children, young people, practitioners and partner organisations, including UNICEF UK, at a celebratory event in the Foyle Arena. The event reflected the culmination of a seven-year partnership approach, supported by Locality Planning Groups, to embed children's rights across local services and decision-making. This recognition demonstrates sustained progress in advancing children's rights and strengthening engagement, with ongoing work focused across six priority areas to ensure the voices of children and young people continue to be heard and acted upon.



Locality Planning Groups Awareness Raising



16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence 2025

Locality Planning Groups, in partnership with the Western Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership, played a key role in delivering awareness activity for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2025. LPG members supported the coordination and delivery of engagement stands across hospitals and community venues, working alongside a range of statutory and community partners. This collaborative approach facilitated direct engagement with the public and practitioners, increased awareness of available supports and services, and contributed to reducing stigma associated with seeking help. The initiative also strengthened cross-sector relationships and enhanced the visibility and accessibility of support pathways for those affected by domestic and sexual abuse.



Digital Safeguarding Core Awareness Session

Locality Planning Groups supported the delivery of a Digital Safeguarding Core Awareness session, developed in collaboration with Western and Northern Digital Safeguarding Steering Groups, targeting practitioners working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. The session, attended by 19 participants from statutory, community and voluntary sectors, increased awareness of emerging online risks and strengthened knowledge of practical safeguarding strategies, digital resilience and appropriate referral pathways. Feedback highlighted enhanced practitioner confidence and understanding, alongside identified training needs relating to keeping pace with emerging risks, embedding digital safeguarding within practice, and strengthening preventative and wellbeing-focused approaches.



UNICEF Child Friendly City and District status Awarded to Derry and Strabane

Derry and Strabane was awarded UNICEF Child Friendly City and District status, becoming the first area in Northern Ireland and second in the UK to receive this recognition. Locality Planning Groups played an active role throughout the seven-year development process, contributing to planning, engagement and the delivery of actions aligned to children's rights. Working collaboratively with key agencies, Locality Planning Group involvement supported increased community engagement, the embedding of child rights approaches and ensuring that the voices of children and young people are heard and acted upon across six priority areas.

Impact of Locality Planning Groups

Enhanced Partnership Working

Locality Planning Groups strengthened collaboration across statutory, community and voluntary sectors, supporting shared priorities and coordinated approaches.

Improved Early Intervention

Enhanced coordination enabled more timely responses and earlier support for children and families.

Increased Practitioner Confidence

Practitioners reported growing confidence in identifying need, sharing information and delivering effective support.

Community-Focused Impact

Locality Planning Groups strengthened local networks and promoted shared ownership of outcomes, contributing to meaningful and sustained community impact.

Locality Planning Groups played a key role in strengthening early intervention by improving coordination, increasing service awareness, and enabling quicker access to support for families.





Cross-Cutting Impact & Key Messages

Strong Collaborative Partnerships

Collaboration across statutory, community and voluntary sectors supported shared problem-solving and more effective use of resources.

Community Co-Production

Services were shaped through meaningful community engagement, ensuring they reflect lived experience and local need.

Focus on Early Intervention

Early intervention approaches supported families at the earliest stage, helping to prevent escalation of need.

Inclusive and Coordinated Support

Partnership approaches strengthened a more inclusive, accessible and coordinated system, improving outcomes for children and families.



Report Cards & Resources

[Fermanagh Youth Networking Event 2025](#)

[Omagh Youth Networking Event 2025](#)

[Learn, Educate, Advice & Develop \(LEAD\) Programme Fermanagh – March 2026](#)

[Learn, Educate, Advice & Develop \(LEAD\) Programme Omagh – March 2026](#)

[Understanding Me: Making Sense of Children's Feeling & Behaviours Workshop Strabane – March 2026](#)

[Understanding Me: Making Sense of Children's Feelings & Behaviours Workshop Cityside – March 2026](#)

[Behaviour Strategies & Regulation Framework Workshop Waterside – March 2026](#)

[Funded Compassionate Connected Communities Event Limavady – March 2026](#)

[16 Days of Activism \(November – December 2025\)](#)

[Technology Facilitated Abuse Awareness Raising Event – November 2025](#)