

## Press Release

28 June 2013

### **Family fun and information day**

Over 200 local families from across the rural Dungannon area attended a family fun and information day in Fivemiletown College - Youth Annexe recently which highlighted the range of services available across the local area from statutory, voluntary and community organisations.

At the event useful information on local services was available from a range of organisations and groups including; Family Support Database, De Paul, Employers for Childcare, Maximising Access Rural Areas Programme (MARA), Early Years, Disability Action, Home Safety (Dungannon Council), Cloghervally Sure Start, Parenting NI, Children in Northern Ireland, and Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

Children and young people had a great day enjoying the activities on offer including a blow-up slide, bouncy castle, balloon modelling, and face painting. This event was organised by the Rural Dungannon Children's and Young People's Locality Planning Group located in the Southern area.

Locality Development Officer Julie Bolton explained: "Locality Planning Groups are partnerships between statutory, voluntary and community organisations that are working with and for children young people and families in local geographical areas such as District Council areas. The Locality Groups are also keen to include children, young people and their families and have in place mechanisms to support their involvement. The Groups provide the base for integrated planning of services for children and young people; their knowledge is vital for identifying local need at an early stage and is therefore essential for planning early intervention services."

Attending the event, Andrea Sawyers from Augher Primary School said: "On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June, the staff, pupils and parents of Augher Central participated in the Community Family fun and information event at Fivemiletown College organised by Rural Dungannon locality planning group.

"Hosting this fair was an identified need in this rural area of Northern Ireland. It was a great opportunity for parents and carers to access information about various organisations and opportunities available to families in rural areas. The event proved very informative and productive, with the pupils engaging with different organisations and learning about health, nutrition, making good decisions and having fun with their schoolmates and those from other local schools. Several parents feel more equipped

and informed about government initiatives and grants available to them, parenting courses on offer and learnt about the Family support database.”

For more information on local services available visit the Family Support Northern Ireland database at <http://www.familysupportni.gov.uk>

If you would like to hear more about Locality Planning Groups or get involved, ring Julie Bolton on 07725 232566 or visit [www.cypsp.org](http://www.cypsp.org)

