
Strabane parents and young people have their say on planning future children's services

12 March 2014

Parents had their say on future services for children and young people at an information event held last night at Holy Cross College in Strabane. They also picked up internet safety tips from keynote speaker Wayne Denner, MCIM – Youth Digital Communications expert who highlighted the importance of parents and their children talking about how to behave positively, safely and responsibly online.



*Front row: Siobhan Quinn, (Holy Cross College), Sinead Donnelly, (CYPSP), Maria Heron, (PNI, Western Parent Reference Group), Maria Doherty, (Principal Holy Cross College)
Back Row: Priscilla Magee,(CYPSP), Key Note Speaker Wayne Denner MCIM, Kieran Downey, Western HSCT (Western Outcomes Group), Mustapha Ben Hassine, Barnardos (Strabane LPG), Anne Hardy, (CYPSP)*

Mrs Maria Doherty, Principal of Holy Cross College welcomed parents and professionals from the Strabane area. She said “We are pleased to be able to bring information to parents about a range of issues and tonight about keeping children safe online. Parents also have a key role in shaping services for our children and young people and we also welcome this opportunity to have our say”

The event, organised by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Western Outcomes Group and Strabane Locality Planning Group, brought local families, children and young people together with representatives from statutory, voluntary and community organisations to discuss the services currently available to support children and young people and how these can be improved in future. This event was part of a series of events taking place across Northern Ireland

which will help inform the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2015-2018.

Mustapha Ben Hassine, Barnardos spoke on behalf of the Locality Planning Group and described the issues arising for children and young people in Strabane and invited parents to give their views.



Parents and professionals at the Strabane event

Kieran Downey, Director of Women's and Children's Services with the Western Health and Social Care Trust and Chair of the Western Outcomes Group said: "Everyone at this event is committed to promoting the wellbeing of children and young people in the West. To achieve this we all need to involve children and young people in decisions that affect their lives. We need to listen genuinely to children and young people, give careful consideration to their views and use their insights to inform our work in meaningful and respectful ways. By doing so, we will demonstrate our respect for them and their families as valued members of our communities and gain important information that will make our work and services more relevant to children and young people."

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) is a multi-agency partnership, led by the Health and Social Care Board. It includes the leadership of key statutory agencies and community and voluntary organisations that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

For more information about the CYPSP in Strabane please contact Sinead Donnelly/Bronagh Donnelly on 028 71342286 or visit www.cypsp.org

If you are interested in joining the CYPSP Parent Reference Group in your area please contact Maria Herron on 028 7137 2006.

Wayne Denner can be contacted through his website at www.wayne.denner.com