

Local organisations and schools have their say on future services for children and young people



Over 50 individuals involved in improving local services for families in the South Armagh area have had their say on future services for children and young people.

The event was organised by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). It brought representatives from 10 local primary and post primary together with family support organisations from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to discuss the services currently available to support children and young people and how these can be improved in future.

Una Walsh, Chair of the South Armagh CYPSP Locality Planning Group, said: "This is a great opportunity for local organisations to voice their views about the needs of children and young people. I am particularly pleased to see so many local schools represented as they play such a key role in children's lives. We are looking forward to building these partnerships and working together in the coming months and years."

Attendees heard about the work of the Southern Outcomes Group, Locality Planning Group and how the Family Support Hub has been co-ordinating support for local families. They also had the opportunity to visit information stands providing family support services available in the area.

Paul Morgan, Director of Children and Young People's Services at the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and Chair of the Southern Outcomes Group, said: "Everyone at the event was committed to promoting the wellbeing of children and young people in the Southern area and involving them in decisions that affect their lives. By giving careful consideration to their views, we have gained important information that will make our work and services more relevant to children and young people."

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is a multi-agency partnership, led by the Health and Social Care Board. It includes community and voluntary organisations and the key statutory agencies that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland. Future workshops are planned on 2 June in Dungannon, 9 June in Newry and 10 June in Craigavon.

For more information about the CYPSP, contact Anne Hardy on 028 2531 1208 or Julie Bolton on 07725 23 25 66 or visit www.cypsp.org

If you are interested in joining South Armagh CYPSP Parent Reference Group, contact Clare Anne Magee on 028 9031 0891.